

Syrian parties discuss anti-Israeli action

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian political parties discussed ways of rallying Arab opposition to Israel Monday and state-run newspapers criticised a new visit to the region planned by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The National Progressive Front met hours before the U.S. State Department announced that Secretary of State George Shultz would return to the Middle East early next month to promote U.S. peace proposals (see story below). The official Syrian news agency (SANA) said the front, a coalition of five groups headed by the ruling Baath Party, would lead Syria's activities to rally Arab support to continue the "imperialist Zionist" policy and its efforts to give priority to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Newspapers, published before confirmation of the Shultz visit, criticised the prospect of such a trip. "Shultz's expected tour will not be different from previous trips," the daily *Tishrin* newspaper predicted. "The U.S. secretary will not carry anything new and he will try to sell previously rejected ideas," it said. "Although the Arabs did not close the door in the face of the U.S. secretary as a goodwill gesture, Israel closed all doors in the face of any project which could achieve justice." The daily *Al Baath* newspaper said the American moves were still far from securing Arab rights.

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Jordan attends Arab aviation talks

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan is attending meetings of commercial managers of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) which began here Monday on topics and measures aimed at boosting inter-Arab cooperation in aviation. The meeting will also discuss consequences of two decisions by the U.S. government in 1987 and 1988 under which it banned the application of any tariffs in any area of the world without prior approval by the U.S. government. Representing Jordan at the meeting is a delegation from the Royal Jordanian (RJ).

Waldheim to visit S. Arabia June 4

RIYADH (R) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim will make a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia from June 4 at the start of a Middle East tour, diplomatic sources said Monday. They said Waldheim, who will also visit the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, will meet King Fahd and other high-ranking Saudi officials. It will be his fourth official foreign trip and his second to the Middle East since he took office in June 1986.

ASALA leader to be buried in Iraq

ATHENS (AP) — The body of Agop Agopian, slain leader of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), has been flown to Iraq for burial, a police spokesman said Monday. Agopian's body was shipped to Baghdad aboard a regular Iraqi Airways flight Sunday night, said the spokesman. The ASALA leader was gunned down April 28 by a masked killer outside his home in Athens' old Phaleron suburb. "According to the spokesman, the ASALA leader was born Haroutun Takoushian, and his parents, Maaridic and Siranoush Takoushian, still live in Mosul in northern Iraq."

Pik Botha to meet Angolans in Congo

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha will hold talks with Angolan officials in Congo this week on a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola, the Foreign Ministry announced Monday. It will be the first time a South African minister has held a formal meeting in black Africa, apart from neighbouring states, since May 1984.

Borja wins Ecuador presidency

QUITO (R) — Rodrigo Borja won a slim victory over rival Social Democrat Abdala Bucaram in Ecuador's presidential election after a campaign which saw vicious personal attacks by both candidates but ended on a conciliatory note. With nearly 75 per cent of the vote counted, Borja had 46.9 per cent to Bucaram's 40.5, according to computer estimates by a local TV station.

4 killed in Golden Temple battle

AMRITSAR (R) — Sikh separatists fought a running gun battle with police in the Golden Temple here Monday killing four people and wounding at least seven including a senior policeman, witnesses said. Police fired light machine guns into the temple, the Sikhs' holiest shrine, after separatists shot a paramilitary police commander in the face critically injuring him. The witnesses said the gun battle began at 1.15 p.m. (0745 GMT) and sporadic firing continued into the evening.

Colombian rebels free most captives

BOGOTA (AP) — All foreigners except the West German consul in Bucaramanga and six Colombian journalists were freed Monday by guerrillas of the National Liberation Army in Colombia, police said. Earlier, the leftist guerrillas had freed West German Honorary Consul Helmut Luecker and Colombian journalist Guillermo Vallejo and Carlos Espinosa.

Another Arab joins martyrs at Dheishe camp

Uprising enters sixth month

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank as Palestinians observed a widespread general strike in the occupied territories Monday to mark the start of the six month of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Ibrahim Ahmad Odeh, 34, was killed when demonstrators clashed with soldiers in the Dheishe refugee camp, sources quoted by Reuters and the AP said. Several others were wounded, a nearby hospital said. Troops fired tear-gas, rubber

Awad ordered held until hearing on expulsion

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli supreme court ruled Monday that Mubarak Awad, the Palestinian-American peace activist ordered to leave the occupied territories, would remain in jail until the hearing on his expulsion in two weeks. Rejecting an appeal to release Awad, a Jerusalem-born U.S. citizen, the court said: "We will not interfere with the decision to keep him in jail." Shamir, who is also acting interior minister, said Awad had overstayed his tourist visa by six months and was a leader of the Palestinian uprising. His lawyers argued in the appeal that Awad, 45, could not be considered a tourist in the city of his birth. A tired but smiling Awad, who

for stepped up attacks on "the Israeli enemy" and honouring martyrs Monday, the five-month anniversary of the uprising. Palestinian leaders also called on the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to defy occupation army order requiring more than 300,000 residents to exchange their Israeli-issued identity cards for new documents.

Demonstrations protesting the order erupted in six Gaza towns and refugee camps Sunday, and in one clash at least 23 Palestinians were injured after soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets. Palestinians said the order was issued to break a Palestinian tax boycott, one of the chief tactics of the uprising, because only those who paid all taxes would be eligible for new cards.

Also Sunday, Israel extended the closure of schools in the West Bank for another month because of continuing protests, Israel Television said. The closure means students will not return to classes in this academic year and will have lost at least five months of school, the report said.

In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military prosecutor filed charges against four Palestinians accused of being key figures in the underground leadership of the uprising, sources said.

The four — Tawfiq Abu Khusa, Iyad Al Ashkar, Tawfiq Al Mabkhuk and Marwan Al Kafarna — were arrested two months ago and have been charged with writing and distributing clandestine leaflets containing directives from the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the Gaza Strip.

Amal-Hizbollah war shows no let-up; Syria issues warning

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Mortar, artillery and machinegun fire shook Beirut's southern suburbs Monday and Syria threatened action to end the bloodshed between rival Shi'ite fighters. Syria's head of military intelligence in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, had talks with acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss as fighters of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) and pro-Syrian Amal militia battled on in defiance of ceasefire demands.

"We have told the combatants you will force us to solve the problem if you do not agree on an end," Kanaan told reporters afterwards. Asked if Syria would deploy troops in the southern suburbs, he said: "We hope we will not come to this, but I will not allow the situation to continue as it is."

The sound of explosions thundered across Beirut as thousands of people fled in panic to Syrian-controlled areas of the western sector of the Lebanese capital and others huddled in groups in basements. Police said 65 people were killed and 150 wounded Monday. That brought the overall toll to 154 killed and 367 wounded since the Amal-Hizbollah fighting broke out Friday.

American navy explodes mine found in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — U.S. navy divers exploded a mine found drifting in international waters Sunday in the northern Gulf, the first found in the area since the USS Samuel Roberts was nearly sunk by one last month. Navy spokesman Lieutenant Commander Mark van Dyke told a Pentagon media pool on board the USS Copeland Sunday that the guided missile frigate USS Simpson was on a routine patrol when it reported the mine about 55 kilometres south-west of Farsi Island where Iran has a major military base.

Van Dyke said the mine was an encrusted mynam-type mine that apparently had broken loose from its mooring. The mine is smaller than the type of mine containing 550 kilograms of explosives that holed the Roberts April 14 off Qatar, 225 kilometres southeast of Farsi, wounding 10 crewmen. President Ronald Reagan has accused Iran of laying the mines to disrupt Gulf shipping. In retaliation for the Roberts mining, he ordered attacks on Iranian oil platforms April 18.

Israeli gunships attack Lebanese village

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli helicopter gunships Monday rocketed a village in an area of South Lebanon policed by United Nations peacekeeping troops, security sources said. No casualties were reported. But the sources, quoted by the AP, said one house was damaged in the attack at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) on Kabrikha, 25 kilometres east of Tyre.

Kabrikha is policed by Irish troops of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). UNIFIL's Irish battalion did not fire on the helicopters, the sources said. They said the house that was hit may have been used by a resistance group to launch cross-border attacks into Israel.

The raid was Israel's seventh air strike in Lebanon this year. Forty-nine people were killed and 71 wounded in the earlier raids. In another development, Israeli navy seamen detained two Lebanese fishermen Monday and beat another after intercepting their boats off the southern port of Tyre, security sources quoted by Reuters said.

They said Souhail Bawwab, 23, and his brother Radwan Bawwab, 25, were forced to strip naked after being intercepted by an Israeli gunboat which took them away. Friends nearby saw the incident.

Syria deployed 7,500 troops in west Beirut in February last year after a bloody power struggle between Amal, which is headed by Justice Minister Nabih Berri, and the Progressive Socialist Party of Walid Junblat. A coalition of senior Muslim clerics called for a repetition in the suburbs of "the successful west Beirut experiment of the past year."

Beirut's *Al Safir* newspaper said the current fighting had set the stage for the Syrian army to move into the suburbs and disarm both sides. Shell blasts echoed across the city all day and night. Gunmen atop racing ambulances fired in



His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim, who delivered to him an invitation from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to attend an extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers (Petra photo)

King receives Algerian invitation to attend extraordinary summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received an invitation from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to attend an extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Algiers.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the invitation was handed over to the King by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim, who arrived here earlier in the day.

The extraordinary summit will discuss the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza and the

situation in the occupied territories as well as the latest developments in the Arab World, Petra said.

The King's meeting with Ibrahim was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Algerian Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Bingham.

In Tunis, Arab League officials said Algeria had sent a formal note to the Arab League saying it will host the emergency summit

June 7.

Algeria, which called for the summit two months ago to muster support for the Palestinian uprising, said it was sending Ibrahim and the number two in the ruling party, Mohammad Sherif Messadia, with invitations to the summit.

Ibrahim will proceed from Jordan to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and Syria, and Messadia was to go to Mauritania and Morocco to deliver the first batch of invitations to the Tunis-based Arab League's 21 members.

Jordan receives Saudi aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has received \$59.9 million from Saudi Arabia as the second aid payment this year, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh announced Monday. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Odeh as expressing thanks to Saudi Arabia for honouring its financial commitment in implementation of a resolution adopted by the 1978 Arab summit in Baghdad.

Chirac packs his bags; Rocard tipped to be named successor

PARIS (Agencies) — Conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac is expected to submit his resignation Tuesday after a stinging defeat in his bid to oust Socialist incumbent Francois Mitterrand as president of France.

As aides began to remove Chirac's collection of Chinese antiques from the prime minister's office, the centre-right coalition with which he governed France for the last two years was crumbling visibly.

Mitterrand, re-elected with 54 per cent of the vote, received a much-needed pledge that centrist legislators would not obstruct his plans to form a moderate government.

"Should our policy be one of obstruction? No," said former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, the man defeated by Mitterrand in the 1981 presidential race, who is now a leading centre-right parliamentarian.

"For the first time in our country's history, we must practise constructive opposition. If the measures proposed by the government are good, we will vote for them, if they are bad then we will not," Giscard added.

Giscard's comments appeared to give Mitterrand, whose Social-

ists lack a majority in parliament, leeway to implement a moderate platform without calling a snap general election.

Most political observers predicted Mitterrand would replace Chirac with Michel Rocard, a skilled technocrat and former left-wing extremist now converted to social democracy.

Rocard, 57, served as agriculture minister while the Socialists held power after Mitterrand first won the presidency in 1981. He once challenged Mitterrand for the leadership of the party, but campaigned actively for the president and all rifts between the two men appear to have been healed.

The prime minister is not constitutionally obliged to step down following the election of a president, but French republican tradition dictates that he do so. Chirac's 28-member government will automatically resign along with him.

Mitterrand defeated Chirac by 54 per cent to 46 per cent in Sunday's presidential election, dealing the French right its worst blow at the ballot box in 30 years.

Chirac's valuable collection of Chinese antiques left the prime minister's office a hotel mignon earlier in the day.

King, Sytenko review peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein held talks with Soviet envoy Mikhail Sytenko on Middle East peace efforts and the Iran-Iraq war, the Jordao News Agency, Petra, reported Monday.

Petra said Sytenko, a Soviet roving ambassador to the Middle East, was received by the King late Sunday.

The talks "centred on the devastating Iran-Iraq war and the necessity to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 598," which calls for a ceasefire in the Gulf conflict, Petra reported.

The agency said the talks also touched on efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices and attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

A Soviet embassy official was quoted as saying by the AP Sunday that Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Sytenko discussed a forthcoming visit to Jordan by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Sytenko flew to Kuwait Monday and an official quoted by the AP said the roving ambassador, was expected to hold "more talks on the Gulf war" with Kuwaiti leaders.

The official described the Soviet envoy's meetings in Amman as "very beneficial and interesting." He did not elaborate.



Michel Rocard Aides, watched by journalists, packed books and documents into cartons and loaded them into vans.

The French franc was steady to higher in early trading Monday while the stock market was steady to higher in calm trading shortly

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. confirms Shultz's Mideast visit in early June

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will visit the Middle East next month for the fourth time this year to promote his plan for Arab-Israeli talks, the State Department announced Monday.

Starting June 3, Shultz will visit Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Syria, said spokesman Charles Redman. His trip will end about June 8 or 9 when he leaves for a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ministers meeting in Europe, Redman said.

"All the people in the region have been very insistent" that Shultz confirm his diplomacy, Redman said. The secretary is therefore "prepared to continue his intensive efforts to try to bring

about negotiations." The Shultz plan is "the only workable alternative" to the violence in the region, Redman said.

"The reason we are going is because there are problems there. They need to be resolved. The status quo is not tenable," Redman told reporters.

Shultz visited the Middle East three times since February to promote a new U.S. peace plan that was prompted by the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The plan envisages an international meeting that would lead to direct Arab-Israeli talks on limited Palestinian "self-rule" in the occupied territories. The "fin-

al status" of the territories would be decided at separate negotiations later.

Redman said that despite obstacles, the U.S. proposal was

the only workable initiative for the region.

"The real reason the secretary

(Continued on page 5)

Peres leaves Hungary

BUDAPEST (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres completed a surprise two-day visit to Hungary Monday, the official MTI news agency reported.

The agency said that Peres, the most senior Israeli official to visit Hungary since Budapest severed ties with Israel during the 1967 war, held unofficial talks with Hungarian leaders.

It did not identify them, gave no details of the discussions but said the visit came at Peres' initiative.

The foreign minister, leader of the Israeli Labour Party, flew on to Madrid to attend a conference of the Socialist International.

Peres is expected to meet Soviet officials attending the Madrid conference, according to diplomatic sources.

Crown Prince urges academic link between geography, resources

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday urged a national committee involved in the process of developing the country's educational system to regard geography as a basic scientific subject and to link it to the country's resources.

"The subject of geography should be renamed 'Geography and natural resources' and should cover problems pertaining to the environment," Prince Hassan said at a meeting with the committee members gathered at the Ministry of Education.

"History books taught at schools should clearly point out the influence of the Great Arab Revolt on Arab life and Arab countries which are still attempting to achieve the revolt's aspirations and national goals," Prince Hassan said.

He said that stress should be laid on the general conduct of both teachers and students in the new system so that the best results can be achieved from it.

In formulating sets of regulations concerning norms of conduct, he said, the committee could benefit from the experiences of advanced countries and

from surveys conducted by Jordanian universities in this regard. Special stress should be laid on religion and history within the general framework of national education, and plurality should be clearly identified as a favourable factor promoting and enriching the Jordanian society, Prince Hassan said.

He said sufficient attention should be given to promoting the sense of belonging among students and enhancing the concept of national identity.

Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi spoke at the meeting, calling attention to the need to intermingle the various subjects in the syllabuses at the compulsory stage.

He urged the committee members to cooperate closely so that they can come out with useful recommendations as soon as possible.

The committee, which includes educationalists, teachers of different subjects at different levels and representatives of Jordanian universities, was formed to set general outlines for a national educational system.

Apart from educational subjects, the committee is focusing attention on developing students' extra-curricular activities, such as visiting museums, interacting with the society and learning civics.

In its drive to introduce new syllabuses for the country's schools, the committee also turns attention to the problems of desertification, afforestation, beautifying the environment, technical development and the role of Jordanian citizens in social and political, the role of women in Jordanian society and the problems of youth.

In March this year Prince Hassan said educational teams, working on the implementation of resolutions passed by the National Educational Conference last year, have drafted a new education law. This law, he said, aims to raise the efficiency and standard of teachers and adapt education in Jordan to the labour market's needs.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday meets with members of the committee involved in developing the educational system in the country (Petra photo)

Dakhqan inspects Irbid projects

IRBID (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is taking effective measures to ensure that contractors abide by their deadline in the fulfilment of their contracts for laying sewerage and water networks in Irbid, in northern Jordan.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan visited the city Monday and inspected work on these projects.

Later, in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dakhqan warned that his ministry would be forced to interfere and take over the work from the contractors if they delay work

and fall behind the deadline as stated in the contracts.

The minister had chaired a meeting in Irbid to review the situation and to hear complaints about delays in laying water and sewerage networks in the city.

Contractors and representatives of various companies involved in the scheme took part in the meeting during which various problems were reviewed.

These contractors were served a note drawing their attention to the need to complete the work in time, the minister said.

He added that problems related to delays were discussed,

and the contractors agreed to submit to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation within three days a report on the situation and to embark on new measures to speed up the work within a week from now.

Dakhqan said he would personally follow up the matter with Irbid's governor and see to it that the contractors abide by their deadlines.

Among those attending the meeting were the governor, the city mayor and the director general of the Water Authority of Jordan.

Bakery owners seek ministry help to solve union problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — The majority of bakery owners in Jordan are demanding that the Ministry of Labour enforce a law on the

Jordanian Bakers Union in the absence of a union board due to internal disputes.

A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that in the absence of a board to take charge of the union, and due to constant daily developments in issues related to bakeries, the price of bread and ingredients used in bread and other problems, the bakers are demanding that the union's law be implemented and that the number of bakeries in the Kingdom be fixed, so as to ensure continued profitability and marketing of their products.

A group of these bakery owners representing major towns and cities in Jordan, visited Al Ra'i Arabic daily and aired their complaints and grievances about the situation.

They said that their problems started in 1986 when 350 out of 450 union members submitted a request to the Ministry of Supply, asking for a reduction in the price of flour by JD 5 per tonne so that the bakeries can make reasonable profits when they sell the bread.

This request was submitted to the ministry without the knowledge of the union board and the board chairman, who decided to suspend the membership of eight of the signatories.

The suspension, which lasted 15 months, ended just before the union's general election which took place in September 1987.

the paper said.

According to the paper out of 685 union members only 120 took part in the election which renewed the mandate of the previous chairman and seven members out of a total of 11 members on the board.

The paper said that one of those who won was not a fully fledged union member and the labour minister had to consider his election as null and void.

Later, a number of problems arose prompting the board members to submit their resignations, a matter which according to the rules was conveyed to the minister of labour who asked for fresh elections, the paper said.

It said that the board chairman refused the decision, and since February 1988, had been placing obstacles in the path of holding elections to choose a new board that can take charge of the union's affairs.

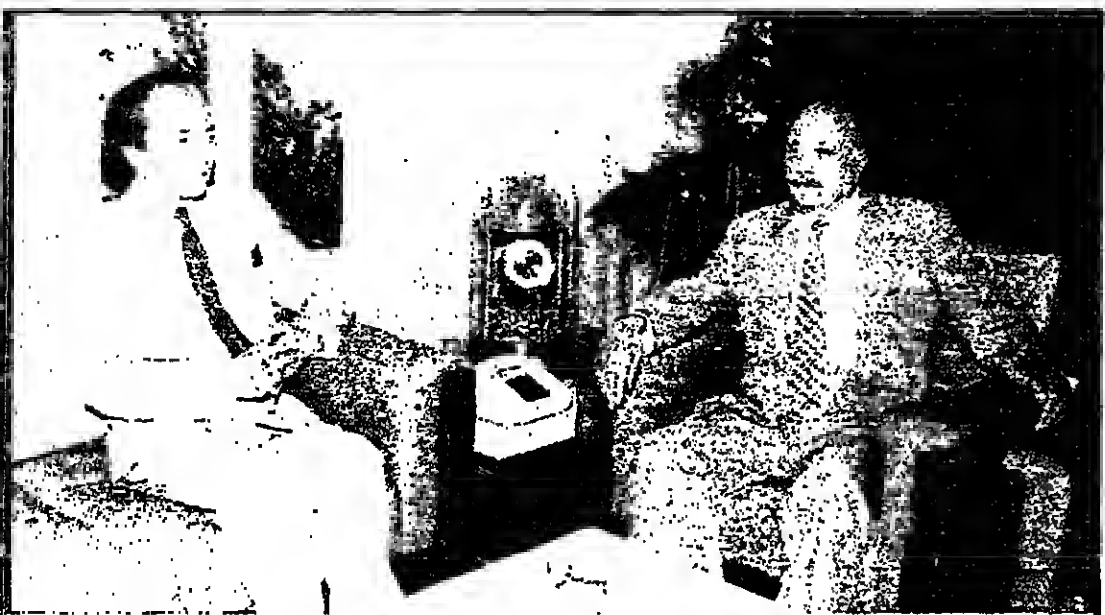
The whole matter, according to the paper, is now pending examination and a decision by the legislations bureau.

However, the paper says that it has conducted tours of 685 bakeries in the Kingdom and found that they lack two basic requirements: cleanliness and honesty in work; and it appealed to the ministries of Labour and Supply to reform the union's regulations and take proper measures to control the situation.

Joint company reviews economic projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Investment and Finance Company Sunday approved the company's internal regulations and statute and reviewed the steps taken so far to set up three subsidiaries, one for producing lean meat and fodder for fattening sheep, a fishing company and seeds production company.

At a meeting cochaired by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabba'a and Egyptian Minister of State for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah, the general assembly discussed prospects for involving Arab and foreign investors in the tourist projects which the company intends to set up in Nuweib; Aqaba and the neighbouring area.



FAYEZ MEETS ENVOY: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayez Monday confers with Indonesia's Ambassador to Jordan Sumario Sorio Kosomo. They reviewed Jordanian-Indonesian relations and means of promoting bilateral cooperation in different fields.

Zarqa marks World Traffic Day

ZARQA (Petra) — A celebration marking World Traffic Day was held here Monday.

Notable personalities and government officials delivered lectures at the comprehensive school for girls, pointing out the main causes for accidents and mistakes made by motorists.

Among those speaking at the meeting were the director of the Police Department who spoke about the danger of speeding and the need to abide by traffic rules to cut down on the number of

accidents.

He also briefed the audience on the number of road accidents that occurred in Zarqa region in 1987.

Towards the end of the

celebration, the Zarqa governor distributed prizes and awards to traffic police and a number of veteran drivers and students, who exerted efforts to organise traffic and reduce accidents.

BASIRA CDD CENTRE: A newly established Civil Defence Centre at Basira, in Tafleeh governorate has started offering its services to the public. The centre, which is equipped with fire engines and provided with requirements needed for rescue and first aid operations, is manned by a team from the Civil Defence Department (CDD) in Amman.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TEACHERS FOR UAE: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Education has asked Jordan to supply it with 240 teachers to work at UAE schools during the 1988-1989 scholastic year, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily. The paper said that UAE requires teachers with community college and university degrees to teach English, Arabic, mathematics, sciences, and geography.

2 JAILED FOR MURDER: The criminal court in Amman has sentenced 22-year-old N.M.A. and 29-year-old Y.A. to 15 years in prison for murdering a man identified only as A.S.S. following a quarrel between them. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the three had alcoholic drinks before their quarrel took place and later the two murderers robbed the victim of JD 280.

MAN GETS 5 YEARS: The military court has sentenced Mohammad Mahmoud Masaleh to five years in prison and the payment of a JD 500 fine for possessing drugs. The military governor Monday endorsed the sentence.

WORLD TRAFFIC DAY: Balqa Governorate will hold a celebration on May 30 to mark the World Traffic Day and the Arab Traffic Week, during which Balqa Governor Mnjim Khreisha will present cups and awards to institutions and government departments which have contributed to reducing car accidents.

CHARITY BAZAAR: The Princess Basma Centre for social and community services has organised a charity bazaar in Ma'an displaying embroidered, artificial flowers, knifwear and other items depicting domestic work prepared by the local community. The three-day bazaar's proceeds will benefit the centre's activities and help cover the cost of providing care for women and children.

HEALTH TRAINING: A three-day training programme in vaccinations and diarrhoea began Monday at Tafleeh Health Department for 30 participants representing various health centres in the Tafleeh governorate.

Ma'an clinic opens to offer free services

MA'AN (Petra) — The Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) opened here Monday a clinic to offer free medical services to the needy people of Ma'an and its governorate.

JNRCS President Ahmad Abou Qoura attended the opening ceremony and made a speech outlining the JNRCS' activities and services, and its contribution to voluntary services in the Kingdom. The Ma'an governor and senior officials were present at the opening ceremony.

The clinic is part of JNRCS' activities marking the 125th anniversary of the International Committee of the Red Cross as a worldwide independent humanitarian organisation and the JNRCS' 40th anniversary.

After the opening ceremony, Abu Qoura visited Ma'an Club and delivered a lecture outlining the development of the JNRCS, and its objectives.

He later met with the governor and the town's municipal council.

Hamzeh returns after attending WHO talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said Monday that the Arab Health Ministers Council, which met lately in Geneva, has set up a committee to follow up with the World Health Organisation (WHO) the implementation of a draft resolution concerning the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement, upon his return to Amman from the meeting, Hamzeh said the draft resolution, which was submitted to the WHO's World Health Assembly last week, outlines the inhuman practices committed by the Israeli authorities against the Arab people, Israel's use of poisonous gas against protesters, its torture of detainees in Israeli jails and the deteriorating health situation in the Israeli occupied lands.

The draft resolution calls on the WHO to continue its medical assistance to the oppressed people in Palestinian lands. It demands that the WHO director general submit a report on the situation to the World Health

Assembly and define measures that could be taken against Israel if it pursued its atrocities," the minister said.

Hamzeh said that the resolution demands that the WHO suspend Israel's membership in the organisation or take other necessary measures to force it to stop its inhuman practices.

The Arab Health Ministers Council decided to adopt a Jordanian working paper, which calls for the formation of a committee that would conduct a general assessment of the Arab countries' role within the WHO, and the relationship between Arab health ministries with the WHO's regional office in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The Jordanian delegation attended ceremonies on WHO's 40th anniversary and Hamzeh delivered a speech on the occasion.

Other members of the Jordanian delegation are still in Geneva to attend the remainder of the World Health Assembly sessions which end in the coming week.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	17:30	Pop Session
Tel: 77311-19	18:00	News Summary
	18:45	Top Twenty
	19:00	Music
PROGRAMME ONE	19:00	News Desk
14:00	19:30	Date with a Star
14:20	20:00	Evening Show
14:40	20:30	News Summary
15:00	21:00	Evening Show Cont.
15:16	21:00	News Summary
15:30	21:30	Religious programme
15:45	21:30	Arabic story
16:00	21:30	Arabic play
16:15	21:30	Cooking programme
16:30	21:30	Religious series
16:45	21:30	Health and Fasting (Arabic)
17:00	21:30	Arabic comedy
17:15	21:30	Ramadan contest
17:30	21:30	Religious programmes
17:45	21:30	Varieties
18:00	21:30	News in Arabic
18:15	21:30	Arabic Series
18:30	21:30	Puzzles from all over the world
18:45	21:30	Historical series
19:00	21:30	News summary in Arabic
19:15	21:30	Arabic series
19:30	21:30	Arabic film
PROGRAMME TWO		
18:00		des chiffres et des lettres
18:15		Lucky Lucke
18:30		News in French
18:45		Spectacular Sports: Bloopers and Fabulous Fails
19:00		News in Hebrew
19:15		Varieties
19:30		News in Arabic
19:45		I Married Dora
20:00		New Series
20:15		News in English
20:30		Murder She Wrote
20:45		Rich Man, Poor Man
RADIO JORDAN		
835 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM		
partly on 95.60 KHz. SW		
Tel: 774111-19		
07:00		Light Music
07:30		Newsdesk
08:00		Morning Show
08:30		News Summary
09:00		Good Old Days
09:30		30 Minute Theatre
10:00		News Summary
10:30		Pop Session Cont.
11:00		News Bulletin
11:30		Instrumentals
12:00		30 Minute Theatre
12:30		Concert Hour
13:00		News Summary
13:30		Instrumentals
14:00		Old Favourites
14:30		Pop Talk

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	MUSEUMS
EXHIBITIONS	"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
★ Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building.	Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651766.
★ Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.	Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Cliffside Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
★ School exhibition, at Sakina Bint Al Hussein School, Jabal Hussein.	Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munirah, Jabal Lawrenbach. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
★ Painting exhibition by the Nazareth School students at the French Cultural Centre.	Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916 Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
★ Festival of Islamic Heritage and Books at the Roman Theatre, Amman.	★ Islamic book exhibition at Abdul Rahman Ibn Awf Mosque at Sawileh.
★ Arabic Calligraphy exhibition, by Abdul Rahim Al Tawil and Abdulhadi Al Shumailah, at the Islamic Cultural Centre, University of Jordan.	★ "Clarigo" (German) at 8:30 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.
FILM	
★ "Clarigo" (German) at 8:30 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.	
LECTURE	
Dr. Ghazi Bisheh of Department of Antiquities will give a lecture on "Qasr Al Habbat in the light of recent excavations" at 5:00 p.m. at Yarmouk University's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology in Irbid.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	SERVICE CLUBS
Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267	The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel. 7:30 p.m.
American Centre .. 644371	Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m.
French Cultural Centre .. 637009	Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.
Goethe Institute .. 641993	Royal Automobile Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel. 2:00 p.m.
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642035	
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624043	
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 637777	
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195	
Hussein Youth City .. 641793	
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793	
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 642521	
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	PRAYER TIMES
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 5330-5, where it should always be verified.	04:00 Bagdad (IA)
ARRIVALS	05:00 Moscow (SU)
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	05:30 Kuwait (KU)
07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)	05:50 Bucharest (RO)
10:15 Agaba (RJ)	06:45 Kuwait (LN)
10:30 Amman (RJ)	07:40 Riyadh (SV)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)	08:20 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Jeddah (RJ)	08:50 Damascus (AZ)
10:35 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	21:15 Dubai (EK)
11:40 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
18:10 Larana (RJ)	
18:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)	
19:00 Paris, Brussels (RJ)	
19:45 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)	
19:15 Istanbul (RJ)	
20:40 Tripoli (RJ)	
20:45 Rome (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
12:30 Bagdad (IA)	
13:30 Moscow (SU)	
14:30 Bucharest (RO)	
14:35 Kuwait (KU)	
15:45 Tripoli (LN)	
16:00 Riyadh (SV)	
17:35 Cairo (MS)	
18:05 Rome (AZ)	
20:10 Zurich, Larana (SR)	
20:15 Dubai (EK)	
01:00 London, Cairo (BA)	
DEPARTURES	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
09:00 Agaba (RJ)	
11:45 Rome (RJ)	
12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	
12:30 Vienna, Miami (RJ)	
12:45 Belgrade, Madrid (RJ)	
13:00 Geneva, London (RJ)	
13:45 Istanbul (RJ)	
14:00 Larana (RJ)	
20:35 Kuwait (RJ)	
20:40 Dhuhran (RJ)	
21:15 Cairo (RJ)	
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	
22:15 Damascus (RJ)	
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
09:15 Beirut (ME)	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Jaramana	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qusaymah	770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57306
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First Aid	630341
Blood Bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	62090-3
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	893901
Electric Power Co.	636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints	771258
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	(08)5330060

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Center	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Akshel Maternity, J. Amn.	642442/2
Jordan Amman Hospital	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	634148
Palestine, Shmeisai	664171/4
Shmeisai Hospital	699131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
Al-Bashir, Abdali	666127/3
Al-Ahli, Abdali	771037
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	667715/5
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	771112/6
Army, Marfa	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674135

NIGHT-DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Saleh Tannous	694968
Dr. Jassim Maraga	776128
Dr. Munir Warda	782332
Dr. Atif Dabbas	608369
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	671655
Rashed taxi	622672
Al Salan pharmacy	687370
Yacoub pharmacy	64945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
TAXIS:	
Karmak taxi	668761
Grand Palace taxi	667079
Furat taxi	667186
Rashid taxi	622672
Commodore taxi	668186
Psychic taxi	662032
Faisal taxi	622051
San Rock taxi	813801

IRBID:	
Dr. Atallah Naser	(-)
Al Shams' pharmacy	273825

ZARQA:	
Dr. Salehman Abu Adla	89340
Khalifah pharmacy	9547

GENERAL

Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	776112/13
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	64432
Price complaints	661176
Telephone Information	12
Jordan and Middle East call	10
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple (French)	450 / 360
Apple (green)	450 / 400
Apple (Lebanese)	300 / 250
Oranges (dry)	350 / 300
Oranges (local)	300 / 250
Banana (Mukammal)	300 / 240
Beans	180 / 140
Beans (broad)	150 / 100
Cabbage	140 / 100
Carrots	170 / 140
Cauliflower	240 / 180
Cherry (green)	200 / 150
Cucumbers	200 / 150
Dates (2 kgs)	600 / 500
Eggplant (large)	120 / 80
Eggplant (small)	150 / 100
Garlic (green)	280 / 220
Lemon	280 / 220

Mallow	250 / 180
Marrow	120 / 120
Onion (green)	160 / 120
Onion (dry)	300 / 250
Oranges (local)	300 / 250
Parsley	300 / 250
Peas	150 / 100
Peas	150 / 100
Pepper (hot)	240 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	180 / 140
Potato	120 / 100
Radish	120 / 100
Tomato	200 / 150
Tomato	200 / 150
Tomatoes	200 / 150
Vine leaves	600 / 500
Watermelon	120 / 80
Sweetmelon	120 / 100

Henna for hands, hair and walls

The following article is part of three of Ammar Khammash's book *Notes on Village Architecture in Jordan*, which the *Jordan Times* is serialising over the coming few weeks. Khammash's book was part of the requirement for his Bachelor degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Photos and sketches appearing with these articles were first exhibited at Southwestern in March 1986. The publication of the book was funded by The Royal Endowment for Culture and Education, of the Noor al Hussein Foundation. The book is available for sale at the foundation's head office at the Housing Bank Complex.

The Site

THE name Shobak designates not only the Crusader castle but also a large number of villages in the surrounding valleys. The castle itself once provided shelter and a market area for the villagers. A large number of villages are situated in the surrounding valleys whose water springs have made life possible in this part of Jordan. Some of the villages of Shobak are Abu Makhtoub, Al-Juhayer, Al-Mansourah (originally Al-Kharybeh), Al-Jayeh, Tor Abu Ras, Al-Fajji Najl, and a few others. Al-Mgar'iyeh was probably always the highest. The villages closest to the castle are also very close to each other. Al-Jayeh, for instance, lies in the valley immediately southeast of the castle and is connected to the village of Abu Makhtoub by dwellings strung out along the mountainside. The group of houses between these two villages is called Tor Abu Ras. These houses, as well as many others in Abu Makhtoub, are built as extensions of caves. A house might be built into the rock by enclosing one side of a pre-existing cave with a wall that has a square doorway. Often a group of houses follows the contour of the mountainside where caves are found or can be easily dug into a layer of soft limestone. This is clearly seen in Tor Abu Ras. Tor may be translated as "a cliff with caves."

The Shobak area is charged with the magic of south Jordan, its valleys meandering through an unspoiled landscape with sites of undiscovered mystery and charm. Located at the pointed tip of the fertile crescent, where the land of Arabia begins, this is a terrain of vivid contrasts — a Mediterranean-like landscape dissolving into the desert.

Traditional architecture changes according to climate. There is great contrast between the architecture of the villages of Al-Shobak, which still belongs to the typical mountain village architecture, and the architecture of the town of Ma'ao, 35 kilometres south-southeast of Al-Shobak. The difference is so great that to someone arriving from Shobak, Ma'ao's architecture appears more Saudi Arabian than Jordanian. Somewhere between Shobak and

Ma'an lies the line separating stone architecture of the mountains and mud brick architecture of the desert.

The houses

The villages of Shobak provide a variation on the basic construction of the Jordanian house.

Although many of the houses are rather typical, some differ in the way their ceilings are constructed. Because I mainly used the ceiling to categorise the different kinds of structures, any variation on the normal was one of the first things I noted. As we now know, the typical way of constructing the ceiling in the fella-hi house is by the placement of one to four arches paralleling each other and the front wall. This divides a large rectangle into smaller spans in order to use the typically short trees of Jordan and to avoid the risk of using beams that might bend under the load of the heavy layers of mud in the roof. In some Shobak houses each arch is replaced by two walls that minimise the span at certain parts of the house; this way shorter beams can be used, and the house does not have to be smaller or narrower for the roof to hold. In fact, this does not change the plan of the house which stays exactly the same as if arches were used; one can still imagine arches starting from the floor, but, instead of two sides curving to meet at the top, the rise straight upward and are connected by two thick beams. Each of the walls on which the two big beams sit is called *rabi'ah*, and the beams themselves are called *hawani*. The wood used in the Shobak area is from a species of cypress brought from the mountains between Shobak and Tafleeh, the area around the famous village of Dana. This kind of wood is called *asar* and is much stronger than oak which is used in the houses of middle and northern Jordan, particularly for beams and lintels. In some houses, as in the village of Al-Mansourah, the main beams are broken or severely deformed and additional support is provided by placing a post under the part of the beam which is most bent. Such a post is called *rakooz*. It is placed in a small depression in a flat stone that acts as a foot to distribute the weight; a horizontal piece of wood on top supports both parts of the broken beam.

Even though this method of construction is often used, especially in the village of Al-Mansourah, none of the oldest houses of Al-Mgar'iyeh were constructed this way. One of the most interesting houses in Al-Mgar'iyeh is the house of Abd-Allah Saliman Al-Shkhaiby. The largest traditional house in the village, it is a double building with a row of three arches on each side and two front doors. Its 130-square-metre floor plan might be one of the largest in Jordan. Another very old house that is worth mentioning is the house of Al-haj Hsain Ar-Rawashdeh, which from inside looks like a tunnel due to its length — 14.20 metres from the door to the back wall. Four arches support the roof.

A group of the village elders sitting in front of a small shop described the way of constructing a typical house. They referred to the building of a house as a Communal activity: "Building used to be an *owneh*." The rectangular exterior walls are built before the interior arches to act as pre-existing buttresses for the arches. Specialised skill is required for constructing the arches. (In this village the master arch-builders were Al-Shatatrah from the Khateeh family of Ma'an.) The arch is constructed on wooden scaffolding that consists of two ladder-like parts fixed at the foot of the arch and fastened with ropes to form an equilateral triangle with the ground. The triangle is then shaped into a curve by piling stones and clay on its sloping sides; the result is a parabolic shape and not a half-circle. This makes the arch closer to the ideal shape of a natural curve that handles the compression most efficiently. The stones of the arch, the *voussoirs*, are placed along the curving surface of the built-up intrados; these stones are precisely hewn with smooth, straight sides to insure full distribution of the compressive stresses over their largest faces. The last stone is the keystone. It is almost identical to the other stones and is called *ghalay*, which means "lock." The keystone is hammered tightly into place: a flat piece of wood on top prevents its being shattered by the hammering. The instant the keystone is in place the entire arch, now self-supported, "jumps" off the scaffolding.

The latest houses with arches were built in the 1940s. All the building materials were gathered from the environs, except for nails, locks and keys; these were brought from Hebron. Probably the most consistent difference between the houses of the north and those of the south may be observed in their interior details. Dominated by the grain storage bins, the interiors are

more capable of representing delicate variations because they are less structural and more plastic due to the properties of clay. The interiors are impressions of peoples' lives once stamped on fresh clay.

The storage bins change from village to village and most consistently from north to south. In the north they are normally part of the wall, built between the arches or as dividers between rooms. They are comparatively tall, taller than a human figure, and because of their rectangular shapes they look like a wall and are difficult to notice. Since bins in the north are made of mud plastered over a framework of cane, there is a geometry of straight lines; they do not have the elaborate relief ornaments of their southern counterparts; occasionally they are decorated with inlaid pieces of broken china and/or mirrors.

The bins of the southern region tend toward the exotic. They are constructed by the village women who use a mixture of mud and straw without a wooden framework, resulting in pieces of more organic than geometric shape. The bins of the Shobak area are unique. Human-size silos are found in the dark, windowless interior of one house in the village of Al-Mgar'iyeh. Constructed by Hajjeh Salha, one magnificent bin is decorated with ornamentation made of coils of mud applied to its front surface. Decorative motifs include abstract plant-forms similar to those in Hindu and eyes meant to protect the crop. In other cases eyes are painted on the surface in black paint, or verses from the Koran are inscribed on the bins. Hajjeh Salha described the process, "We make them in the summer, outside, on the roof or in the street; it takes 15 to 20 days to complete one bin."

The bins are made in different shapes and sizes. A huge bin will have a large opening at the top where the grain or flour is deposited. Some bins are covered with a crown-like lid. A small opening at the bottom provides access to the daily supply of the crop stored within; a bundle of rags plugs this opening so that the grain cannot escape. The bin's small opening is usually plastered in clay after the harvest and re-opened in winter.

Al-Mgar'iyeh

Al-Mgar'iyeh seems to have been, traditionally, the biggest among the Shobak villages. Located approximately three kilometres north of the Shobak castle on the north side of a mountain, the site includes two water springs — Ain Sidr and Ain Al-Mgar'iyeh. From the north, one part of the village appears to be a mixture of houses and huge chunks of rock. This juxtaposition of volumes similar in size, colour and sometimes form, creates an unusual neighbourhood. The oldest houses of Al-Mgar'iyeh are found here. "The first house to be built in this village is the house of Al-haj Hsain Ar-Rawashdeh; it was built approximately 100 years ago." In the same neighbourhood, the other two houses considered to be among the oldest are the house of Ted Saliman Shqairat and dar 'Atayeh. It soon becomes apparent that among the houses of this village the oldest are some of the largest, and in most cases they are built at the sides of big rocks that tumbled from the mountain providing pre-existing walls for the first builders.

One distinguishing feature in the Shobak village house is its square openings. A notable deviation is a beautiful arched doorway, 150 centimetres wide, in the house of Abd-Allah Saliman Al-Shkhaiby. Two reasons for constructing rectangular openings rather than arched ones are the availability of long flat pieces of stone existing naturally in the landscape and the use of wood for lintels.

People and economy

The three main clans of Mgar'iyeh are Al-Shqairat, Al-Lawama, and Al-Malaheem. Al-Malaheem, who are said to have come from Hijaz some 400 years ago, include a pedigree of four family names: Rashed or Al-Rawashdeh, Ghanmy or Al-Ghawanneh, Badr, and Hazza'. The

Al-Lawama clan is said to have been in another village in the area prior to the Malaheem. Al-Shqairat "came to the village and I don't know their origin, possibly Adnanyown from the Arabian Peninsula, but they are not owners of the water to Al-Mgar'iyeh (spring) but owners of the water of Al-Sidr (spring)." The genealogy of Al-Shqairat includes Samareen, Roway'at, Abadih, and Odat. The village used to have another clan, Al-Qaisiyeh, who immigrated to the north.

In times of war Shobak and Karak were allied, while their neighbours to the north and to the south — in Tafleeh and Wadi Musa respectively — fought against them. According to the people of Al-Mansourah, "Al-Tafleeh and Wadi Musa were together against Al-Shobak and Al-Karak. Ma'an was divided into two factions — one with Shobak and one with Tafleeh — and Bani Atiyeh was with Shobak."

Trade ties were with Palestine, the nearest market with a wide selection of goods. The times when the regular trade trips were made is vividly recalled by the elders: "We went two or three times a year to Beersheba to sell livestock and ghee for 25 piasters per three pounds. The goods were carried on mules and camels. We also used to go to Hebron and Jerusalem to buy sugar, oranges and candy which we called *Ain Al-Ba'er*. We would buy fabric — black Thuhait and Al-Damer (velvet) for women at one yard for ten piasters. For men we used to bring, from Jerusalem, white Asfahani handkerchiefs. We would leave here and travel to the west passing by Wadi Al-Datnash and then take the Husoh road, spend the night in Nakhbar and drink from Ain Arus and then go on to Hehroo, Yatta, and Al-Summoa."

Al-Mgar'iyeh has fields with fruit of all kinds. On the way to Kirbet Al-Markah I passed through fertile fields irrigated with Ain Sidr springwater distributed through concrete canals. The entire valley is simply a thick forest of grapevine, fig, olive, pomegranate and apricot trees, for there are few paths by which one may walk among the branches. From the olive trees in this valley it may be determined that the site has been cultivated since ancient times. Unlike the olive trees of the north, which depend on rainwater, these trees are irrigated which makes them look different even though they seem to be as old as the trees planted in Roman times. Unless I completely misinterpreted the situation, the grove is made of mounds on which dozens of sprouts of different thickcoresses are growing together. Each collection of these trees occupies a circle five to six metres in diameter in which, it seems, the mother trees once stood, for the new sprouts appear to have grown from ancient roots.

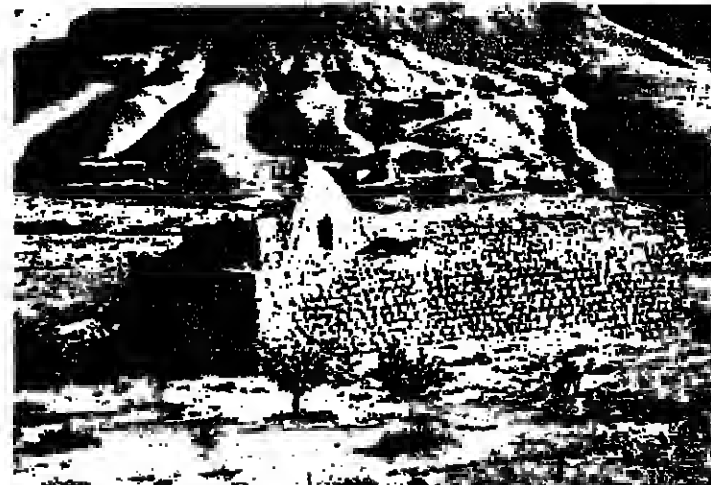
The irrigated land in the village is divided into two parts; one is irrigated by Ain Al-Mgar'iyeh (spring), and the other by Ain Al-Sidr. Since water, especially in south Jordan, is less available than land, the villagers refer to the ownership of the water of the two springs which, to them, represents ownership of the irrigated land. As summarised by the villagers: "The water of Al-Sidr (spring) for Al-Shqairat and Al-Lawama. The water of Al-Mgar'iyeh (spring) for Al-Rawashdeh."

Other cultivated land surrounds the village as patches of dry farming scattered in inimical terrain, with different kinds of grains being produced in small quantities.

Other sites in the area

Abu Silman Al-Dirany is a wali between the village of Abu Makhtoub and the castle. A grave located there is enclosed in a structure with a dome that can be seen east of the road going to Abu Makhtoub. This site can possibly be dated by relating it to the castle which is of the 12th century A.D. Pottery samples collected from the site are mostly of the Mamluk period (1300-1500 A.D.).

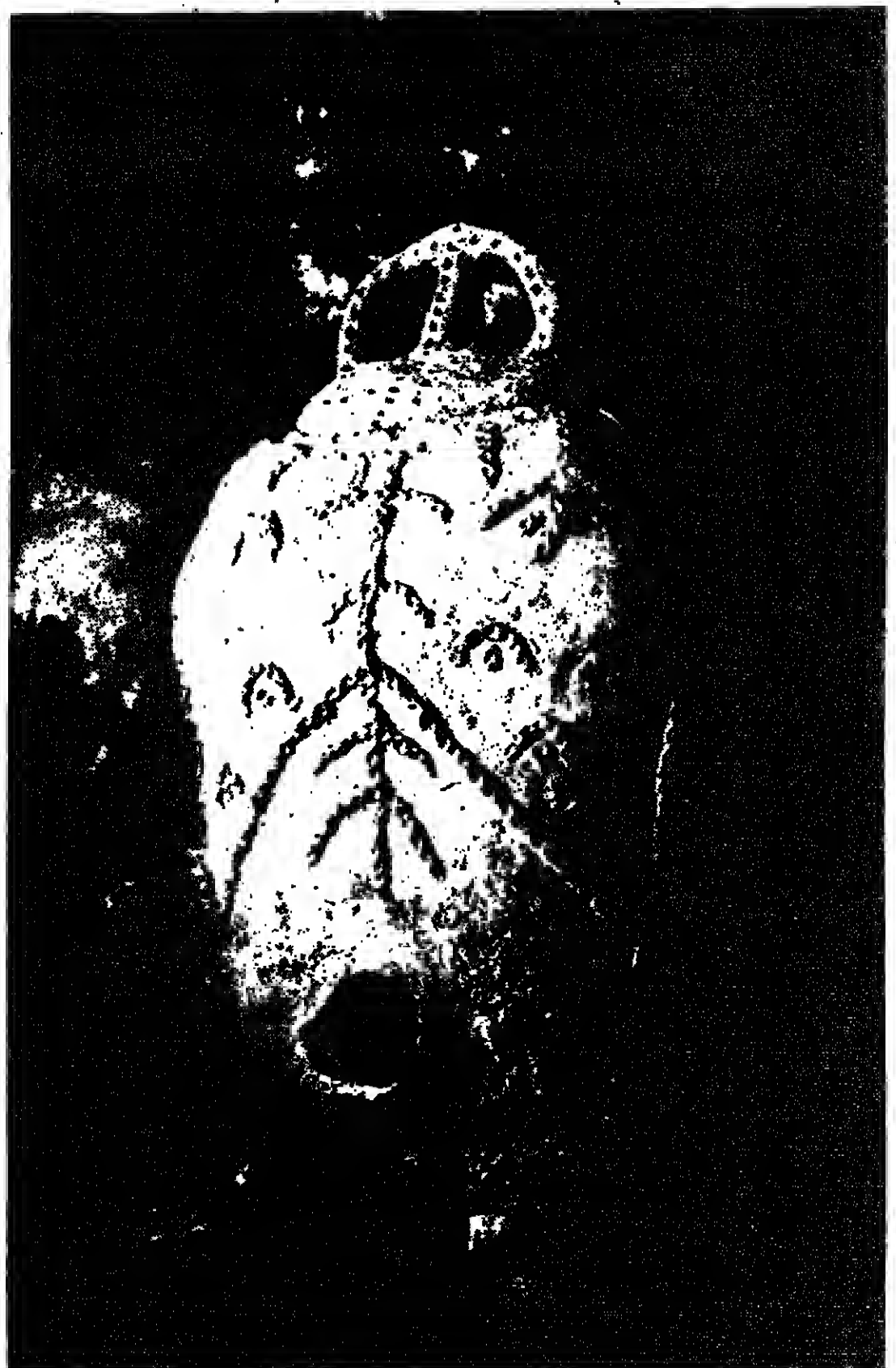
The building is rectangular, 17 x 8.2 metres, with a door and an exterior mihrab in its northern



The building of the wali Abu Silman Al-Dirany.



The village of Al-Mgar'iyeh.



Flour storing bin built by Hajjeh Salha.

elevation. Before entering the main and only doorway, one sees a grave to the right built of limestone with Arabic inscriptions and other decorations. The exterior mihrab next to the grave suggests an outdoor area that probably was used in the event of a large prayer gathering. Remains of a similar mihrab are also found at the foot of a wall that seems to have been added to the eastern elevation, but it is clear in this case that the mihrab was in the interior of a room added in that direction with its door facing east.

The main building is simply made of a tunnel vault 9.5 metres long and a dome 3.5 metres in diameter. In the room with tunnel-vaulted ceiling, a main mihrab is located in the middle opposite the door. Inside this niche is a water jar and beside it is a collection of ornamented stones that are kept here as offerings.

"No one takes from this place anything due to the fear of the wali," explained the old man who looks after the place.

The dome over the gravesite creates an elegant space, and although a big part of the dome's shell is destroyed, its base is in comparatively good condition. It sits on a regular octagonal base that has four small windows and four ornamented squinches. In this case the octagon does the job of pendentives by arching the four corners of the main square underneath with squinches; thus it acts as an adapter between the square room and the circular dome. A fourth mihrab is located under the dome on the southern wall, but this one is small and shallow and is overshadowed by the ornaments of the squinches and by the grave. In the centre beneath the dome, the grave is marked by an oval of small stones and two marble headstones covered with green fabric. Sunlight that enters through the ruined dome has faded the fabric to a light green, and summer dust and winter rain have permanently stained its folds.

In weekly ceremonies at the gravesite, the villagers would pay tribute by drumming and lighting oil lamps or candles. They would bring new fabric to cover the grave and would tear off small pieces of the old fabric to keep for good fortune. Prayers for the sick and other supplications were addressed to the wali. Women dyed their hands and their hair with henna which was also applied to the walls as an offering. "They bring incense, henna and sacrifices. Women walk about the shrine. Before, it was said that there used to be ostrich eggs hanging in the dome in a net. There were lamps, some of glass and some of clay," explained the old caretaker.



Big rocks providing pre-existing walls for some houses in Al-Mgar'iyeh.

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GUEST COLUMN

Uprising — realities and expectations

Dr. Asa'd Abdul Rahman

THE application of the concept of "extremism" in religious ideological and political phenomena — irrespective of intentions — increasingly leads to confrontations, clashes, bigotry and chauvinism. The psychological outcome of this concept often leads to clear-cut demarcation lines between two extremes such as oversimplification and exaggeration as well as optimism and pessimism... etc. Such an outcome is reflected in some trends in the ongoing process of evaluating the results and scopes of the present popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

On the one hand, there exists the notion that the uprising will soon face the ultimate dead-lock and will eventually lose its momentum and fade away, and, on the other, there is the notion that the uprising is only a prelude to an imminent and complete liberation of the occupied Arab lands. What is the bare truth in all of this? And what are the most discernible achievements of the uprising in the different fields, and what are its scopes?

On the Palestinian level, the uprising has succeeded, among other things, in affirming the existence and the will of the Palestinian Arabs and in placing the Palestinian problem on the list of the international community's priorities. The uprising has also succeeded in the adoption of many pro-Palestinian resolutions by different Arab and international organisations.

It also managed to help in lifting the siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, and in bolstering the image of the PLO in Palestinian, Arab, regional, and international fields. The uprising also succeeded in creating favourable circumstances to revolutionise and develop the PLO and to rid it from the shortcomings that afflicted it due to the hostility and perverse circumstances it faced both from within and from without. Last but not least, the uprising enabled both the Palestinians and the PLO to restore their decision-making capability in as far as the Palestinian question is concerned, which — for the last few years — seemed to have become a monopoly in the hands of the American-Israeli alliance.

On the broader Arab level, the uprising has placed the Palestinian case as well as the issue of the occupied Arab territories on the forefront of international attention after a long period of negligence. After years of frustration and despair, the uprising gave hope to the Arab national will and restored lustre to the Arab struggle.

The American-Israeli onslaught was curbed and attempts of this alliance to entice other Arab countries to sign the Camp David accords, thus broadening its base, were foiled. The uprising also succeeded in making the Arabs an integral part of the decision-making process in all matters that concern them. The American-Israeli alliance's attempt at monopolising the process of decision-making was once more broken.

On the Israeli level, the uprising achieved what could amount to miracles. After the Palestinians in particular, and the Arabs in general, were, for a long time, described as "terrorists", the image, has drastically changed if not reversed in a number of circles. The credibility of the U.N. resolution which equates Zionism with Racism has been restored.

The image of peace-loving Israel was shaken in many international circles, including certain Jewish circles. The uprising embarrassed the political and military leadership of Israel and exposed its moral fragility and brittleness.

Notwithstanding the political polarisation in the Israeli society and indications of increased militancy, the uprising helped in convincing many open-minded Israelis of the just cause of the Palestinians and their legitimate demands for self-determination. It also shocked the conscience of many Israelis due to the atrocities committed by the Israeli army, other security forces, and Zionist settlers. Many of the undetermined Israelis were subconsciously convinced either by the pressure of daily events, or due to their liberal leaning, that the West Bank is not or does not have to be an integral part of Biblical Israel, that the occupation is becoming more of a burden to the weak Israeli economy and should be terminated in a way or another.

An ever increasing number of Israelis are being convinced that decision making regarding the Palestinians, the Arabs or even the Jews of the world, is no more a pure Israeli decision. It has become obvious that the new, emerging Palestinian and Arab will should be taken into serious consideration when formulating the decisions affecting the fate of this region.

Internationally, the uprising succeeded in making the Palestinian issue a centre of debate in almost every political society — friendly or otherwise — as well as political parties and parliamentary pressure groups world-wide. The U.N. and the Security Council,

under the pressure of events, were forced to play a favourable and, active role, which, for a long time, was almost forgotten and neglected.

The American administration, sensitive to the increasing anti-American sentiment in the Middle East, was forced to flout its envoys headed by Secretary of State George Shultz who shuttled during three separate visits in an attempt to save whatever has remained of the American credibility in the region. The uprising succeeded in partially remoulding the American official stance from a fully biased Lucidian position to a hopefully less prejudiced stance. Thanks to the uprising, the exaggerated notion that 99 per cent of the cards were in American hands, has undergone serious balancing dimensions.

On the light of these conditions and changes one can deduce that the uprising has successfully placed the Palestinian issue on the right track once again. One can easily say now, and surely so, that the uprising has achieved all the realistic goals mentioned above with unexpected and unparalleled efficiency.

The demarcation line between the scopes of the uprising on the one side, and the scopes of the Palestinian case on the other, should be explicitly noted here. No one has the right to exaggerate the capabilities of the uprising and hence expect from it more than it can realistically achieve given the prevailing adverse circumstances.

We, as Arabs, aside from mere rhetoric, sabre-rattling, and modest financial assistance have given the uprising virtually nothing of the material support it deserves. Total liberation of the occupied territories is, by far, a task beyond the capabilities of the uprising; it takes more than one uprising and perhaps more than one war to be fought by the Arabs.

While it is not fair to underestimate the great achievements of the uprising, it is equally unfair to demand from it what it cannot achieve on its own. In fact, nothing is capable of hurting the uprising more than some current Arab over-expectations that are bound to lead to a quick and an overwhelming tide of over-frustration. This is precisely why one should realise the limitations of the present Palestinian uprising, especially if left by the other Arabs in the battlefield to fight the Israelis alone. To avoid hurting it consciously or unconsciously, one, indeed, should avoid "black-mailing" the uprising to deliver more than it can objectively yield.

First step in a long way

THE ABSENCE of a definite agreement between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers at the conclusion of last week's meeting in Vienna can be read as anything but failure if the unprecedented encounter of powers that control the world oil market. At best, any hastily reached accord, including the five-per-cent production cut suggested by the non-OPEC delegates, could only have been a short-term tranquilliser with no long-term formula in sight to stabilise the market. The very fact that the attention of the consuming world was riveted on the Vienna meeting and international oil price barometers started quivering in anticipation as the talks got under way was a definite pointer to the significance of the first-ever serious joint deliberations of OPEC and non-OPEC producers. No doubt, those producers who stayed away from the talks but ready to take possible pickings were disappointed when no accord came through.

On the other side, the U.S., which went to the extent of trying to wreck the meeting through its own lobbying tactics and psychological battle through the media, might be patting itself on the back that the talks could not produce any agreement, but the willingness expressed by the non-OPEC producers in Vienna to cooperate with the OPEC by coming up with the five-per-cent cut proposal underlines the fact that oil producers around the world are slowly coming to terms with accepting that rivalry in the market benefits everybody but themselves. By the same token, the outcome of the Vienna talks and subsequent public statements by both sides indicate that OPEC and non-OPEC producers have opened the door wide for expanded long-term cooperation rather than short-term remedies which are difficult to prop up, especially when not all producers are partners in such arrangements.

Furthermore, the first to benefit from the impact of production cuts will be those producers who balked at entering into serious talks with OPEC, which has always been the scapegoat whenever oil price crises arose. It is indeed comforting to note that at least four OPEC Arab members, led by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, appear to be determined to pursue OPEC-non-OPEC cooperation as a package designed to bring about substantial long-term changes in the oil market, and are ready to sacrifice short-term gains for the cause. Such long-term cooperation will also open up further avenues of mutually beneficial arrangements in non-oil sectors. Those advocating a take-what-you-can-while-the-going-is-good policy could only be described as short-sighted and insensitive to the prerequisites of a stable oil market, which is what Arab countries need today in their quest for development and self-sufficiency.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King reaffirms stand

KING Hussein was keen to reaffirm Jordan's stand with regard to current initiatives for peace and a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Addressing foreign correspondents and journalists, the King said that Jordan has been accustomed to be frank in its dealings with other nations, using one language and declaring its attitude with all frankness under any circumstances. The King said that Jordan's six-point document handed to the U.S. secretary of state during his tour in the Middle East contains all elements of such stand, and reflects the Kingdom's total commitment to the principles of the Arab Nation and its keenness to protect the national rights of the Palestinian people. The King told his audience that Jordan can never serve as a substitute for the Palestinians and cannot act on behalf of them in all efforts for a settlement to the Palestine problem. King Hussein stressed that Jordan was maintaining consultations with Syria and Egypt and also with the PLO for the sake of arriving at a unified formula vis-a-vis the current Middle East peace initiatives. This coordination of stands among the Arabs, the King said, is bound to contribute towards the achievement of a just and honourable solution. For those who are keen on preserving world peace we say that they ought to work for convening an international conference for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which embody the essential elements for the establishment of a lasting peace.

Al Dustour: Jordan demands just peace

FIRMLY and clearly, King Hussein reaffirmed Jordan's position with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and reiterated this country's demand for an international conference to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Addressing foreign journalists in Amman the King said he would not act on behalf of the PLO which is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people at any negotiations for a settlement. The King's reiteration was meant as a message to the Palestinian people that Jordan does not wish to contain the Palestine problem. This message would help to enhance and bolster the confidence between Arabs and promote inter-Arab action in dealing with peace initiatives and future developments. Jordan is satisfied with the rallying of Arabs and the promotion of the spirit of close coordination, but Jordan has also been intent on devoting all its policies in word and deed to serve as a catalyst for pan-Arab action, like it did at the Arab summit meeting in Amman last November. For this reason, Jordan is maintaining constant consultations with Syria, the PLO, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. Jordan seeks and also works towards achieving a permanent and just peace in the region and for this reason it has been serving as a bridge of understanding for the promotion of cooperation and coordination among Arabs throughout the Arab World.

Sawt Al Shaab: Bright picture of Jordan

KING Hussein once again painted a bright picture of Jordan and reiterated this country's readiness to defend the Arab Nation in total commitment to the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt. In an address at Karak Sunday evening, the King, reaffirmed that the Kingdom will continue to build up its forces and develop its economy and strengthen itself in the face of all challenges. This country, he said, will serve as a fortress in the face of dangers and will continue to shoulder its responsibilities and carry out its duties to serve all Arabs. This country, King Hussein said, serves as a haven for all Arabs who are honourable and who are committed to defend the Arab Order and the Arab Nation.

Mistrust and suspicion mar Indo-Pakistani ties

By Rajendra Bajpai
Reuters

NEW DELHI — India and Pakistan, often the worst enemies and never the best of friends, will open talks later this month to allay mutual suspicions, but few expect dramatic results.

The home secretaries of the two countries, their ministers' top civil servants, meet in New Delhi on Indian charges that Pakistan is arming and training Sikh extremists.

The defence secretaries will meet in Islamabad for talks on the disputed strategic Siachen glacier, where Indian and Pakistani troops have fought intermittent battles at an elevation of 6,000 metres.

Pakistan has denied that it is training and arming Sikh militants fighting for an independent homeland.

An Indian home ministry official said New Delhi had conclusive proof of such activities and that they had forced Indian security forces to fence off part of the border.

The official said the Indian government had the upper hand over extremists until last December but large-scale smuggling of Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles from Pakistan had upset the balance in favour of the guerrillas.

Humayun Khan, Pakistan's ambassador to New Delhi, told Reuters: "I have to concede that in the last four or five years India has made this problem of our alleged interference in Punjab a major issue affecting the overall relationship."

"Indeed from time to time as the situation in Punjab has reached periodic crises, India has made this the stumbling block in the way of bilateral relations."

Old scars

For 40 years since Pakistan was carved out of partitioned British India to create a home for Muslims, mutual suspicion and mis-

trust have guided the actions of both countries.

They have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir. The last in 1971 led to the dismemberment of Pakistan when its eastern wing, wedged between Indian states, became Bangladesh, home for Pakistan's Bengali Muslims.

Romesh Bhandari, former Indian foreign secretary, said recently that Pakistan's twin objectives were to continue getting military and other supplies from the United States and to keep up an anti-Indian frenzy at home to justify suppression of democracy.

He said India was not interested in a confrontation and a weak and divided Pakistan would be no help to New Delhi.

Bhandari told Reuters there was a "subconscious desire (on the part of Pakistan) to take revenge for misconceived perception that India was responsible for the break up of Pakistan."

"The whole question of (achieving) nuclear capability is an essential ingredient of their defence," he said, adding that Pakistan's objective was to weaken India and disturbed conditions in Punjab suited it.

Relations strained

In 1985, for the first time, relations between the two countries appeared to be warming up. Khan said Gandhi and President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq had charmed a comprehensive step-by-step plan, with deadline for each, for normalising relations in 1985 although there were many sceptics on both sides.

"The result was when a minor disruption of schedule took place the whole thing more or less collapsed," he added.

Since last year relations have become further strained. India has alleged that Pakistan is training Sikhs in seven or eight camps in its territory and that Pakistani security forces help militants to reach India with sophisticated arms.

Over 800 people have been killed in Punjab so far this year against 1,200 in the whole of last year.

Indian home ministry officials said India was beefing up its forces on the land border in Punjab, providing them with advanced weapons and detection devices to stop smuggling of arms. Patrol vehicles are to be armoured.

Rajendra Saree, columnist and expert on Pakistan affairs, said he did not expect much from the home secretaries' meeting as there appeared to be no political will behind it.

"They will be polite to each other. India will say Pakistan is interfering. Pakistan will say it is not," he said, adding: "I don't see any signal at political level on both sides which may provide a breakthrough."

A home ministry source said he did not expect any dramatic developments either. Khan said both sides realised uneasy relations were not in their best interest and irritants in their ties were not big enough to prevent cooperation.

"The main problem is the intangible element of suspicion and mistrust which seems to pervade, not the people of the two countries as such," he said, "but the government and influence-wielding lobbies like the media, parliament and political parties."

He said more open action on both sides would help. He said: "I think we know each other too well to imagine we can fool each other by saying one thing and doing another."



Francois Mitterrand

By Alan Philips
Reuters

PARIS — If Socialist President Francois Mitterrand had written the script for his re-election, he could hardly have dreamed up a better scenario for his drive to reshape France's political landscape.

But commentators say he must move fast if he is to capitalise on his personal triumph in trouncing the rightist candidate, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

"Mitterrand will have to succeed quickly in opening up the political scene," said Jerome Jaffre, chief analyst for the Sofres opinion poll organisation.

"If he does not, then a great wave of disappointment will overtake him."

Mitterrand's goal is ambitious: To shatter the right so that Socialists and centrists become the natural parties of government in France.

Even before the final results of the poll were announced, Chirac's centre-right coalition, which has a four-seat majority in parliament, was crumbling under the shock of the prime minister's defeat.

The coalition, led by Chirac's neo-Gaullist RPR (Rally for the Republic) party, split between those who would consider working with Mitterrand and those bent on bringing down his government.

This leaves Mitterrand plenty of scope to prise centrists away

Mitterrand faces fast move to capitalise on triumph over Chirac

from Chirac, who is expected to resign quickly and retreat to his stronghold as mayor of Paris.

The next step for Mitterrand is to name a prime minister — expected to be moderate Socialist Michel Rocard — and put together a government including centrists.

Moderation, continuity

Unlike his first term in 1981, when Mitterrand allied with the Communists behind a programme of radical reforms, the president has this time campaigned on a platform of moderation and continuity, openly courting middle-of-the-road voters.

"Mitterrand will have to succeed quickly in opening up the political scene," said Jerome Jaffre, chief analyst for the Sofres opinion poll organisation. "If he does not, then a great wave of disappointment will overtake him."

The strongest backing for Mitterrand came from former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who looks set to play a key role in parliament in fostering centrist support.

"Good luck Mr. President. Storms await us. Show that you know how to pilot the ship to a safe haven," said Giscard, who was defeated by Mitterrand in 1981.

"We will judge the new government according to its acts," Giscard said in a statement. "We must not decide in advance to censure it."

Mitterrand needs the support of only four members of Chirac's coalition in order to govern — provided he sticks to a moderate

programme acceptable to the centrists.

Chirac and his ministers are in a weak position to control their troops in parliament as they were obliged under French law to resign their seats when they joined the government. This positions Giscard as the right's natural leader in parliament.

Some commentators see Mitterrand's comeback as a revenge drama, plotted by the president to crush Chirac for the humiliation he inflicted on Mitterrand in the 1986 general election.

"Everything looks as if Francois Mitterrand had arranged the Socialist comeback for years," Sofres's Jaffre said.

In 1986, Chirac deprived Mitterrand of a parliamentary majority, forcing the Socialist to take a back seat and name his arch-rival to head his government.

A key element in Mitterrand's strategy has been the extreme right National Front Party of Jean-Marie Le Pen, which has risen to become a major force during Mitterrand's seven-year term.

Le Pen, whose anti-immigrant campaign won him 14.4 per cent of the vote in the April 24 first round of voting, made clear he would challenge Chirac for the leadership of the right.

He said he would form a new party to be called the Rally for the People of France — a new insult to Chirac as the name was used in the past by the Gaullist movement.

Chirac's supporters, however, are pledged to fight Mitterrand's attempts to freeze them out.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, the "hard man" of Chirac's campaign team, told supporters to prepare for new battles.

"One campaign is over. Others are on the horizon," Pasqua said. "Do not be discouraged by those who are already whistling the tune of compromise and surrender with shameful abandon."

Space technology zooms into 21st century

By Harry F. Rosenthal
The Associated Press

LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTRE, Virginia — The idea has a nice ring to it: Tokyo in two hours. Zooming over the earth at 25 times the speed of sound. Crossing the Pacific in an airplane so revolutionary the space shuttle and the Concorde become old hat.

That airplane, or something like it, is taking shape at this and other NASA centres in bits and pieces: A model is assaulted in a wind tunnel by 4,800 mph (7,725 kmph) blasts in temperatures hundreds of degrees below zero; an electron beam illuminates air flow around a scaled-down plane; a sleek cylinder zips through a water trough 3,000-feet (900-metre) long, sensitive to every nuance of resistance; a photograph captures shock wave and heat patterns in ghostly blues of green, orange, yellow, blue and magenta; the most powerful computer ever built ingests world-class problems and spits out answers; a standard airplane circles over Chesapeake Bay, piloted not from the stan-

dard cockpit in front, but from a second, all-electronic one, in its passenger section.

The "little A" in NASA — the aeronautics part of National Aeronautics and Space Administration — is not as flashy as the "big S" and gets only 7 per cent of the agency's budget, but its accomplishments brush our lives in thousands of ways.

The large A

A poultry plant in Marietta, Georgia, is quieter because of a NASA aeronautics; water quality in many places is improved because of aeronautics technology; firemen wear better protective clothing.

"We are called the space agency by many, probably including yourself," Jeremiah F. Creedon, the director for flight systems at the Langley Research Centre, tells a visitor, a bit of resignation in his voice. "Many of us here think the A is a large one."

Langley's work is divided roughly 60 per cent aeronautics, 40 per cent space, with a hefty dose of military work in both. With other NASA research cen-

tres — Ames and Dryden in California and Lewis in Ohio — its business is to develop technology and pass it on, without cost, to aircraft companies. The federal government has played that role from the start of its involvement 70 years ago.

The agency has never built an airplane, but few planes fly today without engines, designs, materials and structures conceived at NASA. "We are doing research that benefits the country," says Creedon. "It is available to Boeing, Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas, whoever wants to build transport or high performance aircraft." No single company alone could afford NASA's \$2 billion investment in wind tunnels.

Here at Langley, they don't talk about the "orient express." It's either the NASP, the national aerospace plane, or better yet the X-30, next in a string of experimental planes that began with Chuck Yeager's X-1, breaker of the sound barrier.

Phase 2 in progress

When U.S. President Ronald

Reagan made his rosy prediction about the Orient Express, a week after the Challenger space shuttle disaster, engineers had already taken years to decide the X-30 was possible. Reagan's one-paragraph announcement signalled start of phase 2, perfecting the technology, which will last until the summer of 1990, when engineers will take a hard look at where they stand and decide whether to build the X-30. Phase 3, in the mid-'90s, would see the aerospace plane begin flight tests that would finish as the 21st century begins.

That's the timetable for the largest experimental aircraft project ever undertaken by the United States. It will cost \$3.3 billion. Clearly NASA and the air force, which is sharing the cost, have something more practical in mind than building one or two prototype planes, merely to prove it can be done.

The military and package-delivery firms such as Federal Express say the aerospace plane will provide the technology for the somewhat slower but far more useful aircraft of the future.

"There is tremendous potential for all kinds of vehicles operating at high Mach numbers," says Douglas Dwyer, manager of hypersonic technology at Langley. "The national aerospace programme is aimed at an experimental aircraft to demonstrate technologies for this family of hypersonic aircraft."

The speed of sound, which varies with temperature and density of air, is represented by a Mach number. Airplanes that fly below Mach 1 are subsonic; those that fly faster are supersonic. Those that fly more than five times the speed of sound, above Mach 5, are designated hypersonic. To escape the atmosphere into orbit, a plane must achieve Mach 25.

So far the big airplane manufacturers have little interest in building passenger aircraft that fly at Mach 25, no matter what the president said. They do want, for the years 2000 to 2010, a supersonic airplane capable of flying at Mach 2 to Mach 3.5. At Mach 2.7, a trip from Los Angeles to Tokyo would take just under four hours, compared with

12 to 14 hours subsonic. The ideal Mach number is one of the big questions facing the engineers.

The United States researched a supersonic transport, the SST, in the 1960s, but dropped the programme in 1970 because of costs. The space shuttle had been designed, the Apollo moon programme was winding down and there seemed no need for space missions requiring re-entry with the accompanying hypersonic speeds.

In addition, the price of jet fuel, which had been 10 cents a gallon (3.8 litre) when research started, jumped to \$1.30.

While American interest dropped, the British and French produced the Concorde, a plane capable of twice the speed of sound. But its birth coincided with heightened environmental concerns, and the sonic boom scared people; many governments, including the United States, barred it from flying over land.

Moreover, the Concorde was designed with '60s technology and carries barely enough fuel to make it across the Atlantic.

Iran wants closer ties between soldiers and guards

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian president has called on the regular army and Revolutionary Guards to work more closely together, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Monday.

President Hojatoleslam Ali Khamenei, head of the supreme defence council, urged closer cooperation by the two forces when he swore in Brigadier-General Ali Shabazi as new chief of staff of Iran's armed forces. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Khamenei addressed during the Tehran ceremony Sunday that the army and Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) must coordinate their operations in every area.

The Revolutionary Guards and the Basij, a voluntary force numbering hundreds of thousands, have borne the brunt of the 72-year-old war against Iraq since the purge of senior regular army officers after the Islamic revolution that ousted the Shah in 1979.

Khamenei said the Revolutionary Guards was a young force and provided good support for the army. The army for its part had greatly helped the IRGC and such cooperation must continue, he said.



Iraqi soldiers and Iranian prisoners of war at Fao Peninsula, which the Iraqis liberated from Iranian occupation last month (Photo by Khalil Mazrawi)

Last month, the Iranian Army launched its first offensive without the backing of Revolutionary Guards or Basij volunteers for 13 months against Panwin in north-east Iraq.

The president said the army had enough manpower, equip-

ment and military know-how to achieve the aims of the Islamic revolution.

The armed forces had been innovative in the production of equipment and was now making full use of the country's resources to meet its defence needs, he

said. Khamenei praised outgoing Chief of Staff Brigadier-General Ismael Sohrabi, saying since he took over the post in October 1984 at a most crucial period he had played a highly significant role.

Sohrabi has been appointed military supervisor of the supreme war support council.

The change in chief of staff comes only weeks after a surprise Iraqi attack ousted Iranian forces from Iraq's Fao Peninsula, occupied since early 1986.

Sweeping Israeli curbs muzzle Palestinian press

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

TEL AVIV — The fattest file in Mahmoud Abu Zuluf's office is filled with news stories he may not print.

The editor and publisher of Al Quds, the biggest-selling Palestinian daily newspaper in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, displays the dossier with mournful resignation.

"We have problems with the military censor every day. We cannot publish many of the stories and pictures that appear in the Israeli press. The army disrupts our distribution. Much of the time we may only quote Israel Radio," Abu Zuluf said.

Five months into the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, censorship, closures, arrests, detentions and distribution restrictions have largely muzzled the Palestinian press.

"Newspapers have become worthless as a way of transmitting information. They cannot even tell the people things they need to know for their daily lives, like shopping hours," said Daoud Kattab, a leading Arab Jerusalem journalist and commentator.

The broad freedom of speech and publication enjoyed by Israelis, who call their country the "only democracy" in the Middle East, do not apply to the Palestinians.

Journalists jailed

Israeli occupation authorities have jailed 20 Palestinian journalists for six months without trial under emergency regulations since the uprising began last Dec. 9. Many others have been arrested and harassed by the police and army.

Among the detainees are five of the nine board members of the Arab Journalists' Association in the occupied territories, including President Radwan Abu Ayash and Vice-President Salah Zubeika.

Israeli authorities regard most of the Arabic press as a mouthpiece for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Besides locking up journalists, Israel has sought to silence Palestinian news sources of the foreign press and diplomats.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS), an Arab Jerusalem agency that was a major supplier of news to the Israeli and foreign media, was closed in April for six months by order of the head of the Israeli army of the West Bank.

The interior ministry revoked the licence of the weekly maga-

zine Al Awda published in English and Arabic, whose staff also assisted foreign journalists.

Military authorities also closed Palestinian press offices in the cities of Nablus, Bethlehem and Gaza.

Sources say the purge will continue. One said Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin intends to close virtually the entire Palestinian press, little-by-little, to limit international condemnation, leaving perhaps a single newspaper.

In the last few weeks, military censors have increased efforts to prevent the foreign press from publishing reports on the leaflets, security measures and attacks on Palestinians accused of collaborating with the Israeli secret police.

Four Arabic-language dailies are printed in Arab Jerusalem: Al Quds (circulation about 35,000), Al Nahar (5,000), Al Fajr (3,000) and Al Shaab (1,500).

They are allowed to report so little that most Palestinians get their news by listening to foreign radio stations, particularly the Arabic broadcasts of Radio Monte Carlo and a PLO radio station broadcasting from Baghdad.

Even the clandestine leaflets circulated by underground leaders of the uprising are sometimes more informative than the press. They list strike days and shopping hours authorised by protest organisers.

ICRC to start relief work in south Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will start a new relief operation to help civilians in war zones in southern Sudan later this month and is contacting both the government and the rebels about safe conduct, an ICRC official says.

ICRC Operations Director Andre Pasquier spoke to reporters following a meeting Saturday night with Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi.

Pasquier said that his organisation had contacted and would further contact the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) about safe conduct for the relief operation which he said is expected to start before the end

of the month. He said Mahdi had pledged to assist the operation in overcoming any difficulties.

The ICRC official's comments seemed to imply that the government had given the green light for the organisation to contact the rebels. In the past, there have been sensitivities between relief organisations and the government which bans contacts with the SPLA rebels.

Four relief groups have been expelled from Sudan in the past few months. Officials said they did not need them anymore and they were not registered with the government, but sources said it was mainly because the groups had contacted the SPLA to

arrange for transport of food supplies to civilians caught in the cross fire.

The SPLA, which controls more than 90 per cent of the countryside in the south, has been attacking relief convoys by ground and air, claiming that the government uses them to transport military troops and supplies.

Pasquier indicated that the food and medical supplies would probably be transported from neighbouring Kenya and Uganda and that they would be distributed by ICRC personnel.

He said that the ICRC was a non-political, humanitarian and neutral organisation, adding that relief officials in a war zone require securing the consent of the

two parties in the dispute. "As a neutral institution, the ICRC should contact both parties to win their confidence," he said.

He gave no details on how much relief supplies the operation held, nor in which areas it would be distributed.

The rebels took up arms against the government in 1983, demanding more autonomy and administrative and economic reforms. Fierce fighting has forced hundreds of thousands of southerners to flee their crops and cattle and congregate around the relative safety of the towns and cities where they become dependent on relief food for their livelihood.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya says no meetings with Egypt

BEIRUT (R) — Libya has denied seeking to resume political relations with Egypt and rejected any talks while Cairo maintained relations with Israel. The official Libyan news agency, JANA, monitored in Beirut, Sunday quoted a foreign affairs bureau statement as saying: "Our stance towards Egypt is unshaken ... we reject any meeting with the Egyptian regime as long as the latter continues its relation with the Zionist enemy." The comments were apparently a response to efforts by the United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi to improve ties between Egypt and Libya, strained for more than a decade. Nuaimi has visited Tripoli and Cairo since Thursday and the Emirates' news agency (WAM) said he was seeking to reconcile the two countries. "We refuse to have the Libyan flag hoisted in Cairo as long as the Zionist flag is hoisted there ... such a stance cannot be a matter for mediation or for any good offices," the Libyan statement added.

Demjanjuk appeal to be heard in December

TEL AVIV (AP) — Retired Ohio autoworker John Demjanjuk will appeal his conviction and death sentence for Nazi war crimes by next month and Israel's supreme court will hear the case beginning Dec. 5, a court spokesman said Monday. The spokesman, Shmaryahu Cohen, said in a telephone interview that the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, 68, has a June 10 deadline to file the appeal, but that Demjanjuk's lawyers could request an extension. The appeal will be heard by five justices for three consecutive days, and then for another three days between Dec. 12 and 15, Cohen said, adding that Israeli prosecutors are scheduled to reply from Dec. 19 to Dec. 29. The court will convene at the supreme court building and provide simultaneous translations of the Hebrew language proceedings into English and Ukrainian, Cohen said. Demjanjuk was sentenced to death April 25, a week after being found guilty of being a guard named "Ivan the terrible," who operated gas chambers at the Treblinka death camp in Poland where 850,000 people were killed in 1942-1943. Demjanjuk says he is a victim of mistaken identity and that he was in two German prisoner-of-war camps during the period in question.

Kurdish rebels massacre 21 Turks

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish rebels killed 21 Turkish villagers in three attacks in Turkey's troubled southeast at the weekend, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Monday. The rebels, members of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), gunned down 10 civilians in the hamlet of Behmenin near Nusaybin in the south-eastern Mardin province Sunday night, the agency said. The attack followed Saturday's killing of 11 Turks, four of them women, in the hamlets of Taraki and Uctardesler in Sirt province, about 45 kilometres from the Iraqi border. The rebels,

fighting for autonomy for Turkey's eight million Kurds, kidnapped three men as they left the two hamlets, which lie about 15 kilometres apart, the agency said. The weekend killings bring to 42 the number of Turkish civilians killed by Kurds this year and to nearly 1,000 those killed in the area since 1984.

Ethiopian Red Cross cuts ties with ICRC

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Ethiopia's Red Cross Society has cut ties with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), citing its refusal to release drought relief supplies after the government expelled foreign aid workers from the war-torn north. ERCS Chairman Dawit Zewdie announced the break Sunday in a speech marking Red Cross Day and the 125th anniversary of the international Red Cross movement. "Since appealing indefinitely to ICRC for reconsideration of its stand has proved to be unrealistic and in light of the emergency situation involved, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society has deemed it necessary to disengage itself from the joint relief operation with ICRC," Dawit said. The Geneva-based, all-Swiss ICRC was part of a massive relief effort to save an estimated seven million Ethiopians from starvation following severe crop failures last year.

British tourist murdered in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Two thieves stabbed to death a British tourist and stole £10 from his vehicle at the weekend near Marmaris, southern Turkey, police sources said Monday. The semi-official Anatolian news agency said two unemployed 18-year-old men, both former cake shop workers, would be charged with the murder of Peter Holden, aged 40, and with theft.

Kuwaiti paper urges expulsion of Shi'ites

KUWAIT (AP) — A Kuwaiti newspaper has called on the government to deport Kuwaiti Shi'ite Muslims who show allegiance to Iran in retaliation for terrorist acts for which they are widely blamed here. The call in the newspaper Al Anbaa Sunday came a day after an explosion in downtown Kuwait, the second in 10 days. Kuwaitis who belong to the Shi'ite sect that predominates in Iran have been held responsible in the press. "If there is a small group which has abandoned national consensus by affiliating with any other than this beloved land, it should be eradicated from the country," Al Anbaa said in an editorial. The two recent explosions damaged the offices in Kuwait of the Saudi Arabian Airlines and an American car rental company. Al Anbaa also demanded that the Kuwaiti nationality be withdrawn "from those not deserving to belong to Kuwait." The paper recalled that Kuwait, who was named by Iran as a representative of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Kuwait, and deported him along with his family when he was charged with anti-government activity.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Uprising enters sixth month

(Continued from page 1)

Abn Khusa and Ashkar were described in the indictments as organisers for the mainstream Fatah movement of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mabkhuk was described as a member of the Palestine Communist Party and Kafarna was called a militant of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Sources said the leaflets were painted in Ramallah and distributed in the Gaza Strip by members of the since-outlawed Shabiba Palestinian youth movement.

Awad ordered held until hearing

(Continued from page 1)

A spokesman for Shamir said no such message arrived. Legal sources quoted by Reuter said the high court's decision would satisfy Shamir but American pressure on Israel was likely to intensify in the two weeks until the final court ruling.

American diplomats here have long backed Awad's philosophy of civil disobedience.

Awad's lawyers, Israeli Avraham Gai and Palestinian Jonathan Kattab, said their client should be released pending a final decision since Israel's "security" organisation, the Shin Bet, did not accuse him of inciting violence.

Excerpts of the Shin Bet statement to the court shown to reporters said Awad was involved in the publication of leaflets calling for strikes and demonstrations and called him a "security" threat.

Awad's wife denied her husband authorised such a leaflet. But his calls for general strikes, boycotts of Israeli goods and non-payment of taxes have been

adopted by leaders of the uprising. Palestinian sources said there was Arab pressure on Awad not to appeal to Israeli courts because it appeared to legitimise them.

But Awad's lawyers filed an appeal Sunday and the court stayed the expulsion order for three days, ordering the Israeli government to prove its case.

Mrs. Awad said that since her husband's detention she has received dozens of phone calls and telegrams of support from U.S. politicians, church groups and entertainers.

Among those expressing support were Jacqueline Jackson, the wife of Democratic presidential contender Jesse Jackson; Congressman Mervyn M. Dymally, a Democrat from California; and singer Joan Baez.

"I certainly felt the support of a tremendous number of people, here and in the United States," she said but added that she and her husband also received numerous death threats in the past few months, usually from anonymous telephone callers.

Amal-Hizbollah war rages

(Continued from page 1)

the air to clear traffic as casualties were rushed to hospitals. Radio stations blared appeals for blood donations.

Doctors confirmed allegations by both sides that wounded fighters have been dragged from ambulances and hospitals by their rivals and slaughtered.

Gunbattles flared in the Al Sahel hospital, where one doctor said surgeons have been forced by battle-shaken militiamen to operate at gunpoint on dead comrades "to bring them to life."

Amal crushed Hizbollah in South Lebanon in fierce battles last month and political sources said Hizbollah was defending the Beirut suburbs as its last stronghold in Lebanon.

Political and security sources told Reuters they believed some of the foreign hostages might have been moved out of Beirut, possibly to the eastern Bekaa Valley.

Streets in the suburbs were littered with debris, empty artillery cartridges and bullet cases. Black smoke billowed from blazing houses and the smell of gunpowder filled the air.

Most neighbourhoods had been turned into battlefields with dozens of street corners barricaded into positions for gunmen. Hizbollah spokesmen said rescue teams were removing the

dead from the streets and carrying wounded civilians to hospitals and clinics in the area.

Amal's irregulars, with green or black headbands, control most of the districts of Haret Hreik, Mreiji, Roweiss, Shiyab and Kassass, a police spokesman said.

"Hizbollah has established control over half of the slums. It only controlled one-third before the current fighting," the spokesman said.

But he stressed Amal has a long-term military advantage because its fighters and Syrian troops control all gateways to the slums.

"This is Amal's trump card. It can move in supplies and reinforcements from several other areas at will, while Hizbollah cannot get a fly in or out," the spokesman said.

He discounted a report that the Western hostages may have been smuggled out to east Lebanon's ancient city of Baalbek, a Hizbollah stronghold. "It's impossible," he said.

Ahmad Kurdi, an Associated Press photo technician, escaped Monday after he, his wife and six children had been trapped in a shelter in Bir El-Abed since Friday.

"It was worse than the horrors of the civil war and the Israeli invasion" of Lebanon in 1982, Kurdi said.

Chirac leaves office today

(Continued from page 1)

after the exchange opened. The general market indicator was up 1.06 per cent after 30 minutes of trading.

Currency traders said the franc's steady opening level was expected since Mitterrand's economic policies are not viewed as differing widely from those of Chirac.

In New Caledonia, gloomy white settlers said the reelection of Mitterrand would encourage militant indigenous separatists and bring chaos and uncertainty to France's troubled Pacific territory.

But leaders of the pro-independence Kanak community, who largely boycotted the poll, welcomed Mitterrand's victory as a last chance to head off further violence after two weeks in which 28 people have died.

"This is the end of a nightmare," said Jean-Marie Tjibou, leader of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS). "There is now hope of a solution at the end of the tunnel."

Mitterrand called for talks to end the New Caledonia troubles in his victory speech.

Mitterrand, who cast his vote in the Burgundy city of Chateau Chalon where he was mayor for 20 years, pledged in his speech to unite the French.

"You have chosen to place your confidence in me. Therefore I will carry on the mission whose burden and grandeur I have already known for seven years but which renewed, commits me to do what I must to unite all those French people who want to be united," he said.

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AMMAN, JORDAN

Shultz's Mideast visit confirmed

(Continued from page 1)

is going is because at this stage we have not been able to bring about the negotiations to which all of this effort is directed," he said.

Redman said the U.S. refusal to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation had not changed, but added that Shultz may meet with Palestinian representatives during his Mideast tour.

"I would not rule that out," he said.

Shultz's attempt to meet with Palestinians during his March trip failed when the Palestinians refused to attend.

Redman, asked if the United States still had a timetable to which it wanted Middle Eastern countries to adhere, said: "We need to get this under way as soon as possible."

Jordan contractors to form export council

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuter

AMMAN — Jordanian contractors, suffering from a decline in local construction, plan to set up an export council to tap new Arab markets, an official said Sunday.

"By setting up such a council, we hope to explore new markets abroad in the Middle East and Africa, especially in North Yemen, Iraq, Sudan and Mauritania," Jordan Contractors Association President Ali Abu Ragheb told Reuters.

The council would certify contractors and consultants eligible to bid for projects outside Jordan and offer advice and information

to match contractors and clients. It would also help them form consortia where appropriate.

The association, which hopes government officials and private businessmen will serve on the council, is to submit a study on the idea to Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai.

Abu Ragheb estimated that 25 of Jordan's 758 registered contracting companies and another 25 consultancy offices would qualify for and benefit from the proposed council.

Jordanian contractors have

seen a fall in local business with contracts worth \$953 million awarded in 1987 compared to \$1.1 billion the previous year, Abu Ragheb said.

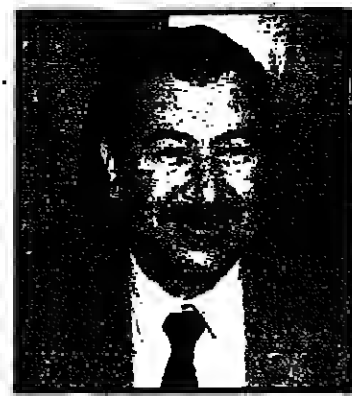
More than 40 per cent of these contracts went to foreign companies, partly because of tied development loans.

Abu Ragheb said he hoped local firms would win at least half the \$140 million worth of road building contracts to be funded by a Japanese development loan provided in December.

The rest of the \$300 million credit will go on schools and irrigation works, including \$30 million for the Wahdah Dam on the Yarmuk River, on the Syrian border.

Abu Ragheb said local consortia would bid for parts of the dam work, Jordan's biggest capital project.

Ten foreign firms with local partners bid this month for work on a diversion tunnel. Officials hope work on the dam will begin later this year.



Ali Abu Ragheb

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for May 9, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	210546	JD 282350	268
Top three companies:			
National Steel Industries	28850	JD 80781	18
Arab Bank Ltd.	360	JD 41043	10
Jordan Cement Factories	24671	JD 26151	17
Parallel market:	19762	JD 8838	—
Development bonds:	9	95	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	45	446670	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.8795/8805	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2360/70	Canadian dollar
	1.6795/6902	Deutsche marks
	1.8834/39	Dutch guilders
	1.3980/90	Swiss francs
	35.12/16	Belgian francs
	5.7000/30	French francs
	1249/1250	Italian lire
	124.50/60	Japanese yen
	5.8780/8830	Swedish crowns
	6.1620/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.4665/4715	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	444.00/444.50	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — A lack of buying support saw the market drift to a weaker close in all sectors, brokers said, with industrial stocks bearing the brunt of selling pressure. The All-Ordinaries Index fell by 12.1 points to 1410.5.

TOKYO — Prices fell for the third session in moderate trade on wariness ahead of the three-day quarterly U.S. treasury auction and U.S. March trade data. The Nikkei Index sank 23.47 points, or 0.81 per cent, to 27,264.30.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed firmer in active trading on selective buying, brokers said. The Hang Seng Index ended 12.29 points higher at 2,584.03.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed marginally lower over a broad front on lack of interest and bouts of profit-taking. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 4.16 to 971.90.

BOMBAY — Trading stopped as some 2,000 employees from more than 500 stockbroking firms went on a one-day strike.

FRANKFURT — German shares closed lower as investors remained on the sidelines in lacklustre trading. The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, fell 16.7 points, or 1.2 per cent, to 1,326.5.

ZURICH — Share prices closed easier on low turnover in reaction to the negative trend in Tokyo and New York. The All-Share Swiss Index was at 805.5 points, 3.8 points below Friday's close.

PARIS — French share prices ended moderately active trading firm but off their highs, as profit-taking followed the initial climb after President Francois Mitterrand's victory. The 50 share price index finished 1.31 per cent higher.

LONDON — Share prices were just above the day's lows in late trading after Wall Street showed a firmer tendency. At 1515 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 7.3 off at 1,793.8.

Iraq builds new oil pipeline

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraq is building a new pipeline that will allow it to pump its oil through either Turkey or Saudi Arabia, boosting its ability to maintain exports vital to its war effort against Iran, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The respected weekly oil industry newsletter said the 640-kilometre, 106-centimetre pipeline will run parallel to an existing north-south pipeline running the length of the country.

The pipeline project will secure Iraq's ability to pump its oil exports safely out of the Gulf war zone, while Iran, its foe in the 7½-year-old Gulf war, has to send its tankers in the gauntlet of Iraqi fighter-bombers through the waterway.

Strategic boost

That will be a major strategic boost for beleaguered Iraq. If other Gulf states boost their exports through new pipelines, as is likely, it would change the economic map of the region.

It would also remove the threat to the industrialised world if Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz, the only way in and out of the Gulf.

The new pipeline will hook into a network linking Iraqi oilfields with outlets across Saudi Arabia in the south and Turkey in the north, the weekly noted.

That will allow the Iraqis to switch all their exports through Saudi Arabia if Iranian forces and their Kurdish guerrilla allies operating in northeast Iraq threaten the northern pipelines into Turkey.

The Iraqis already have three pipelines linking their northern oilfields with Saudi Arabia's Red

Sea terminal of Yanbu and their northern oilfields with the Turkish port of Ceyhan on the Mediterranean.

These carry an estimated 2.5 million barrels of oil a day. Another 200,000 barrels a day are trucked across Jordan and Turkey.

The new pipeline, with a capacity of 900,000 barrels a day, was expected to be completed by 1990, the survey said.

That, with a planned upgrading of the Saudi Arabian link to 1.6 million barrels a day by the end of 1989, would boost Iraq's export capacity to around four million barrels a day by the end of the decade.

The Iraqi pipeline programme is one of the most extensive ever undertaken and, when completed, would be one of the most flexible in the world, oil industry sources reported.

The Iraqis began building their pipeline network several years ago after the war cut them off from their main export terminals in the northern Gulf and Syria closed a pipeline to the Mediterranean across its territory.

Syria, Iraq's main Arab ally, has been feuding with Iraq for eight years. The two countries are ruled by rival wings of the Baath Socialist Party.

In the early days of the war, Iraq's oil exports plummeted to around 500,000 barrels a day.

Now it is developing new oilfields in southern and central Iraq which industry experts say could boost production to around five million barrels a day by the end of the next decade.

The drive to boost exports is vital to Iraq. The war, which costs

it at least \$10 billion a year, has hiked its foreign debt to an estimated \$50 billion.

By next year, providing oil price remains stable, Iraq could expect to earn \$15 billion from crude exports.

By contrast, Iran has pegged its anticipated oil revenue, on which it also relies to pay for its war effort, at only \$9 billion.

The Iraqi air force has been pounding Iran's oil industry and tankers in a bid to throttle its economic lifeline.

The war and the threat to shipping has touched off a frenzy of pipeline building and planning by Gulf states.

Saudi Arabia is upgrading its network. Iran is racing to build pipelines to its Arabian Sea coast to avoid the dangerous Gulf route.

Kuwait is considering an over-land pipeline to Yanbu. Abu Dhabi is studying the possibility of one to the Arabian Sea, beyond the range of Iraq's marauding gunboats.

Low demand for tankers

All this will have a profound effect on the tanker market by sharply reducing the need for long-haul seaborne cargoes from the Gulf.

The Oslo-based International Association of Independent Tanker Owners, or Intertanko, said in a recent report that pipelines now under construction will cut demand for supertankers by 46 cargo a year between the Gulf and Western Europe.

If the pipelines under consideration are built, Intertanko said that would mean a reduction of 143 supertanker cargoes a year.

French money markets give Mitterrand unexpected endorsement

PARIS (R) — Investors confounded forecasts and bought French shares and francs Monday after Socialist President Francois Mitterrand's re-election, in a wave of relief that the uncertainty of a long presidential campaign was over.

Shares prices soared almost 2.5 per cent, while the franc rose. It traded around 5.7055 to the dollar, up from 5.71 Friday, and was fixed at 339.46 per 100 Deutsche marks, compared with 340 Friday.

"Mitterrand's victory was

already in the prices and fundamentals are good. If the market does slip initially, a lot of people will come bargain-hunting," one share dealer said.

Analysts said French shares look fairly cheap in comparison with other markets, after having been neglected for months because of the political uncertainty.

In the longer run, they also expect any government Mitterrand appoints to contain pragmatic, centrist politicians.

Trades had worried that Mitterrand "would get even more

than the 54 per cent majority he won in Sunday's vote, prompting him to appoint a radical left-wing government and call immediate general elections to bolster his Socialist Party in parliament.

But the 71-year-old Mitterrand is making overtures for support from centrist politicians. And former president Valery Giscard d'Estaing said Monday that the right should avoid obstructive tactics.

"The market is hushy. Everyone is surprised and we might falter at first but we're going up over the next couple of weeks," a stockbroker said.

Analysts say Mitterrand will have to pay attention to investor's concerns, in part because of initiatives taken by his conservative opponent, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

Chirac's sweeping privatisation programme troubled the number of small French shareholders to about six million and many analysts expect the incoming government will move to reassure them by proposing reforms including boosting shareholders' rights and cutting share transaction taxes.

"So many people own shares now that Mitterrand will have to take a stance," said William Timmerman of Paris brokers Puget, Mahé.

Japan institutions turn wary of high Tokyo stock prices

TOKYO (R) — The Tokyo stock market has scaled record-breaking heights, outperforming Wall Street and other bourses to the point where it is scaring some Japanese investors away, brokers

polled by Reuters said Monday. While individuals, securities houses and foreigners have been eagerly buying Japanese stocks, the imbalance among leading global stock markets is keeping some domestic institutions, mainly investment trusts, from purchasing as enthusiastically as they did in March and early April.

On April 7, Tokyo's 225-share Nikkei index surpassed its old high of 26,646.45 points set last Oct. 14, and hit 27,669.72 on May 2.

Early Monday, New York's Dow Jones industrial average was some 26 per cent off its 2,722.42 peak and Loodoo's Financial Times index about 27 per cent off its 2,443.4 high.

Investment trusts, which are mainly subsidiaries of brokerages, were net sellers of Japanese stocks from February 22 until April 23, Tokyo Stock Exchange figures show.

In the week ended April 23 they sold a net 61.29 billion yen (\$493 million), and look ready to be net sellers for the entire month of April, brokers said.

"In Japan, the fundamentals are good, the effects of the high yen have been digested and there are low interest rates, so stocks should continue to rise," said Yoshihiro Sawada, fund manager at Sanyo Securities Investment Trust Management.

"But overseas there are fears of inflation. Until the situation abroad is clearer, there should be continued profit-taking (by investment trusts)," Sawada added.

Some brokers said that institutions were unwilling to re-enter the market aggressively due to high prices and were awaiting a market correction.

However, since the current nature of investors is to swoop in to hunt for bargains whenever stocks fall, the overall market cannot drop much, they say.

"Domestic institutions will continue to wait for the Nikkei index to come off, but it would be hard for it to come off a great deal," said analyst Moriyo Tabara at Schroder Securities.

Industrial body prepares for exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Industry is involved in the process of modernising and refurbishing facilities that display Jordan's national products.

A chamber spokesman was quoted by Al Dustour Arabic newspaper as saying that a large number of local companies and industrial organisations have requested to take part in the exhibition which helps to promote the sale of Jordanian goods.

This exhibition is held on a permanent basis and displays the products of a large number of Jordanian firms and factories.

Jordan farm exports fall

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan exported 24,000 tonnes of vegetables and fruits to Arab and European countries during the past month, according to a report in Al Rai Arabic newspaper.

The report said that Jordan's exports included oranges, cucumbers, potatoes, eggplants, marrows, tomatoes, lettuce, lemons, cauliflower and beans.

The major importer of these products, it said, was Saudi Arabia followed by Kuwait, Dubai and European countries.

But it noted that Jordan's exports dropped by 14,200 tonnes over exports of April last year.

Ministry of Supply officials said that a total of 140 tonnes of meat arrived in Jordan Sunday and were distributed to various centres in the Kingdom.

They said that the shipment included 85 tonnes of mutton and 55 tonnes of beef.

According to a report in Al Rai, the ministry plans to bring in 100 tonnes of mutton and 76 tonnes of beef during the period that precedes the Eid Al Fitr Feast next week.

Strike wave spreads to Polish capital

WARSAW (R) — Workers downed tools at a big Warsaw factory Monday as a two-week strike wave spread to the Polish capital for the first time, opposition sources said.

Up to 80 per cent of the workers at the giant Ursus factory outside Warsaw stopped work after a strike committee presented a six-point list of demands to management, they said.

In Gdansk, Solidarity-led strikers at the Lenin shipyard rebuffed peace offers after a four-hour negotiating session and repeated demands for recognition of the banned union.

Reuters correspondent Michal Bromatowski reported that the offer from the shipyard management was greeted by workers with shouts of: "There is no freedom without Solidarity."

At the Ursus plant, which employs some 15,000 people, a group of workers marched round the grounds and a four-man strike committee presented demands to the manager, the opposition sources said.

The demands also included legalisation of Solidarity and concessions to Solidarity-led strikers in Gdansk and Krakow.

The Ursus strike committee and 600 supporters then occupied the canteen and an adjoining department of the plant.

About 80 per cent of the remaining workers on the morning shift were standing idle at their posts awaiting a reply from the management, the sources added.

Ursus was a militant Solidarity stronghold in 1980-81 during the free trade union's 16-month period of legality. It was put under military control when the government imposed martial law in December 1981 to crush the union.

The plant was the fourth giant factory affected by labour unrest that began on April 25 when transport workers in the central city of Bydgoszcz staged Poland's first major industrial stoppage since 1982.

Authorities have met the challenge with pay concessions and force, persuading workers at the Stalowa Wola steel mill in south-eastern Poland to resume work quickly but sending police to break a strike at the Lenin steel

mill near Krakow.

Officials were negotiating with workers at the Gdansk shipyard in a bid to end the eight-day strike when the Ursus stoppage occurred.

The six demands of the Ursus strike committee included demands made by the Gdansk strikers that are considered political by the authorities.

They were: Re-hiring of workers fired under martial law, increased pay to compensate for government-imposed price rises, recognition of Solidarity and a banned student union, security for strikers and agreement to the demands made by the strikers in Gdansk and Krakow.

In Gdansk, about 1,000 strikers occupying the shipyard with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa again rejected management peace offers after more than four hours of talks during the morning.

Manager Czeslaw Tolwinski immediately replied that it might have to shut down the heavily subsidised shipyard which employs 12,000 workers.

Financial crisis

He issued a communique saying

the national bank and finance ministry had refused further credits and subsidies "in view of the yard's financial and material situation, compounded by the recent stoppages."

"With this in view, I have approached the industry minister as the yard's state proprietor, for a decision on the future fate of the shipyard."

The hardline army newspaper Zolnierz Wolnosci said the yard was one billion zloties (\$2.5 million) behind on tax payments and the strikers were creating conditions for "the re-emergence of the leaders of destruction" — an

apparent reference to the turbulent Solidarity era.

General Czeslaw Kiszczak, the interior minister, has offered the Gdansk strikers concessions in several telephone calls to the shipyard.

However, they have been repeatedly rejected by rallies of the strikers inside the yard demanding recognition of Solidarity as a pre-condition for a peace settlement.

Solidarity sources say Kiszczak has offered to rehire some militant workers fired from the yard under martial law.

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Performances: 3:20, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

Army restores calm in Karachi

KARACHI (Agencies) — Soldiers riding jeeps mounted with machine guns patrolled the nearly deserted streets of about a third of the city Monday after ethnic rioting reportedly killed 48 people and injured 200.

No renewed fighting was reported Monday, but hospitals said they received eight more bodies from fierce gunbattles that killed 25 people Sunday, including four policemen, a 10-year-old boy and an infant hit by a stray bullet.

Traffic was sparse and many shops were closed in central Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, as a round-the-clock curfew in the east, north and west sectors took effect.

This port city of over seven million people has been a seething hotbed of frustration between Pathans, who trace their roots to northern Pakistan, and Mohajirs, Indian Muslims who immigrated to Pakistan after partition in 1947.

Officials said troops were deployed in 15 of the dusty city's 42 precincts, apparently after police failed to quell street battles and marauding bands of gunmen.

A minor traffic accident in western Orangi township April 30 sparked the bloody clashes between the Pathans and Mohajirs, which soon spread to other neighbourhoods where the groups live side by side.

People were ordered to stay in their homes, mostly cinderblock hovels, and the streets were devoid of the usual bullock carts, hawkers of fresh mangoes and nuts, and the sidewalk habbers and sandalmakers.

Hulks of burned out shops and houses, overturned trucks and

charred three-wheeled rickshaws still littered the streets.

Earlier in the week, authorities had lifted curfews for one hour around 7 p.m. for iftar and during another hour usually around 3 a.m. for subour.

But after Sunday's clashes, the army allowed no exceptions to the curfews, forcing people indoors until further notice.

More than 200 people died in Pathan-Mohajir clashes in the last two months of 1986.

Reports in some local newspapers said the trouble started at Khwaja Ajmer Nagri when a man tore up a greeting card bearing the picture of Mohajir community leader Altaf Hussain. Some residents said the clashes started after some gunmen fired into a street Saturday night.

Sunday's violence was the worst since Sind Chief Minister Ghous Ali Shah resigned April 6 after critics charged that he had failed to control acts of lawlessness in the volatile province.

Shah was replaced by Akhtar Ali Kazi who said maintenance of the peace would be his first priority.

Kazi, in a televised interview Sunday night, promised stern action against what he called a handful of troublemakers and said the situation would be normal in a few days.

"The government is engaged in finding the real causes of the riots and taking steps to stop them,"

19 Soviets held after forming new party

MOSCOW (R) — Police were holding 19 Soviet citizens Monday after a meeting to proclaim formation of a new opposition party, a spokesman for the group reported.

Fourteen detentions came late Sunday after the second day of a conference of over 100 people from around the country who met in Moscow to form an alternative to the Communist Party, to be called the Democratic Union, Yuri Mityunov told Reuters by telephone.

Another five people were detained Monday, when police searched the headquarters of the independent journal Glasnost, where members of the newly proclaimed opposition party planned to meet, the wife of publisher Sergei Grigoryants said.

Mityunov said police had waited outside the Moscow apartment where about 60 people were

gathered Sunday evening and stopped them as they came out. They originally detained 23 people, all but 14 were released after questioning.

"The ones held overnight were from out of town and they refused to leave Moscow," Mityunov said. He did not know whether they had been charged with any crime.

Other members of the new party had been meeting elsewhere in Moscow on the same evening, but he did not know whether there were other detentions.

The Communist Party is the only political force in the country recognised under the Soviet Constitution, and analysts said a new organisation could have little or no effect unless it gained some official recognition.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who has made democratisation of the party and Soviet

society in general part of his "perestroika" reconstruction platform, has called for "socialist pluralism."

But he has also made clear that this covers only an opening up of the Communist Party to a wider spectrum of views, including discussion and consultation with informal social groups, and not the creation of new parties.

Over the past 20 years Soviet dissidents have several times said they were forming political parties to compete with the Communist Party but their groupings have always promptly broken up under police pressure and from internal squabbling.

The conference of the new organisation was scheduled to continue Monday, a holiday in the Soviet Union, at the headquarters of the dissident journal "Glasnost" some 40 kilometres outside Moscow.

Kohl party humiliated in regional elections

BONN (R) — West Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) have dealt Chancellor Helmut Kohl's scandal-tainted Christian Democrats a humiliating defeat in elections in the longtime conservative state of Schleswig-Holstein.

The SPD swept to power with 54.8 per cent of the vote in elections Sunday, according to provisional official results, ending nearly 38 years of unbroken Christian Democratic (CDU) rule in the country's northernmost state.

The party's share of the vote increased by nearly 10 percentage points from previous state elections last September, largely due to voters disillusioned with the CDU, which polled just 33.3 per cent.

Conservative politicians, conceding defeat, acknowledged that a "dirty tricks" election campaign by former State Premier Uwe Barschel had played a major part in the CDU's defeat.

CDU General Secretary Heiner Geissler, a close confidant of Kohl, said the poor showing of the CDU "was the answer (of the electorate) to the Barschel affair."

"I would have been surprised if the result had been any different," he told journalists.

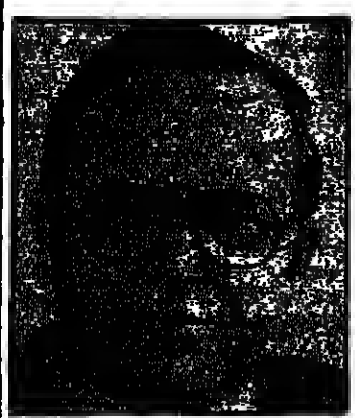
Barschel was forced to resign last September after the news magazine Spiegel revealed one day before the last election in Schleswig-Holstein that he had ordered private detectives to smear the reputation of SPD opponent Bjorn Engholm, who Sunday became the state's new premier.

Barschel, regarded as a rising talent in the CDU, was forced to

resign after the September election failed to produce a clear majority for any party in the Kiel assembly.

He was found dead in a Geneva hotel the following month and police say they believe he committed suicide.

Kohl described the result of the election as "a serious defeat" for his party, adding that the shock of what he described as last September's events was still having an effect on the public in Schleswig-Holstein.



Wilfried Martens
Belgium gets new coalition

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium Sunday night named a centre-left government under veteran Prime Minister Wilfried Martens that was pledged to pursue economic austerity and heal the language row between French- and Dutch-speaking communities.

The Royal Palace announced an enlarged government of 19 members — four more than in the previous centre-right coalition led by Martens — and said it would be sworn into office Monday.

Formation of the five-party coalition of French- and Dutch-speaking socialists with the two wings of the Christian Democrats and Volksunie Flemish regionalists ended Belgium's longest-running political crisis.

The French-speaking Socialists' strong showing in general elections Dec. 13 was recognised by them being given six out of the 19 posts.

Martens, a 52-year-old Flemish Christian Democrat heading his eighth administration, shared out top posts equally among the five partners giving each of them a deputy prime minister portfolio.

A programme adopted by the five new partners commits them to pressing ahead with the belt-tightening of the last government aimed at cutting Belgium's high budget deficit and public sector debt.

Veteran politician Leo Tindemans, 66, defied earlier rumours that he would retire and held on to his post of foreign minister.

Aquino may allow Marcos' kin to return

MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino says Ferdinand Marcos' children may be allowed to return for their grandmother's funeral but reiterated that the ousted president will be barred from coming home.

Aquino made the statement Sunday in a national radio broadcast aired hours after thousands of Marcos supporters marched through the capital to demand that the ousted ruler be allowed to return from exile for his mother's funeral.

"I know that some people were upset that he was not allowed to return," Aquino said in her weekly radio programme, "Ask the President."

"But I think the great majority are concerned that, first of all, we preserve whatever gains we have attained during the past two years," she said. "And it is very necessary to preserve the stability

that we have attained for the good of the entire country."

But Aquino did not rule out a visit by Marcos' children, Irene Imelda and Ferdinand Jr. She said the family must make a formal request for them to attend to give the government time to prepare security. She said no request had been made.

"The reason why I would like to do this on a formal basis is because if any of the Marcoses do come here, then this government naturally is obliged to protect them," she said.

Marcos' three children fled the country along with the deposed president following the civilian-military uprising that toppled his administration on Feb. 25, 1986.

The Aquino government cancelled passports of all members of Marcos' immediate family and has barred them from returning.

There have been news reports that Ferdinand Marcos Jr., planned to sneak into the country to represent his father at the funeral, which hasn't been scheduled.

The former president's other relatives denied the reports.

In Honolulu, about 1,000 supporters gathered Sunday at Marcos' hillside estate for a three-hour memorial service for the exiled president's mother.

The Roman Catholic service, which included recitation of the burial rites, was held on the lawn of the home of Marcos and his wife, Imelda. A small white tent was erected for the Marcos family and their close friends.

New Zealand to protest formally over French agent

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Foreign Affairs Minister Russell Marshall said Monday that New Zealand would formally protest to France the repatriation of Rainbow Warrior saboteur Dominique Prieur.

Prieur was flown to Paris from her exile on Hao, in French Polynesia, Saturday on the eve of the final round of the French presidential election.

The repatriation of Prieur, who is pregnant, was in breach of a U.N. ruling that she and co-saboteur Alain Mafart remain on Hao until July 1989.

Mafart was returned to Paris in December to have an unspecified stomach complaint treated.

Marshall said New Zealand would be pursuing all outstanding questions with the new French government at the earliest opportunity.

The repatriation of the two agents without New Zealand's

consent and in violation of the 1986 ruling by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had brought relations between the two countries to a low point, he said.

The return of the pair raised bigger questions.

"They go to the heart of the issue whether relations between states are to be conducted on the basis of civilised values and respect for the established principles of international law," Marshall said.

Prieur and Mafart received 10-year jail sentences for their part in the July 1985 bombing of the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour.

They were placed in French custody on Hao in July 1986 in accordance with an agreement between New Zealand and France.

Europeans split over Mitterrand victory

LONDON — Western Europe greeted Francois Mitterrand's reelection as French president with varying degrees of approval, the left hailing it as a major triumph and right-wingers accepting it resignedly.

MADRID — Spain's Socialist government welcomed Socialist Mitterrand's win and looked forward to closer relations with France. "We hope that relations, which have been very good during his first term, will not only be maintained but will become even deeper," government spokesman Javier Solana told Reuters.

"We hope they will become deeper not only on bilateral issues such as the fight against terrorism, but on the construction of Europe, which has been a basic theme of Mitterrand's campaign," he added.

Mitterrand delighted Spain five years ago by reversing France's previously cautious attitude on the issue of Basque separatism, starting a crackdown on suspected ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) guerrillas.

"We hope to collaborate with France to the construction of Europe when Spain takes over the presidency of the European Community in the first half of next year," Solana said.

LISBON — Portuguese President Mario Soares, a Socialist, sent a telegram of congratulations to Mitterrand, a personal friend

within minutes of the outcome. "The Portuguese people and myself offer you the warmest congratulations on this occasion, historic for both France and Europe," Soares said.

LONDON — British opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock said: "This is a great victory for Francois Mitterrand and the French Socialists and a hammer-blow for the right — especially for the racist right."

A spokesman for conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she was not expected to make any immediate comment but might send a standard congratulatory message to Mitterrand in due course.

The Financial Times newspaper said Mitterrand's victory left no doubt as to who was Europe's supreme tactician. "Whether this virtuoso performance amounts to statesmanship or will serve the higher interests of France is quite another matter," it said.

The Business Daily said many liberal French would find it hard to forgive the president for letting the far-right National Front genie out of its bottle, "for it is by no means clear that he knows how to get it back in."

"It is hard to keep many tears of chagrin over Mr. Chirac's defeat — especially after his grotesque attempts to save himself in extremis by allowing Captain Dominique Prieur to return to France, in flagrant breach of his

agreement with New Zealand, and by ordering the bloody assault on the Kanak separatists... who would almost certainly have released their hostages peacefully as soon as the election was over, at the very time when he was welcoming home the hostages from Lebanon after long and scarcely glorious negotiations with their captors," the Financial Times said.

The Guardian newspaper said in an editorial that Mitterrand's brilliant campaign brought a victory which was not only deserved but was also in his country's best interests as well as a relief for France's Western allies.

Chirac was not different from most other politicians, including Mitterrand, in seeking to make a virtue out of opportunism. "But the nakedness of the loser's ambitions and his readiness to mortgage French interests at home and abroad in the pursuit of personal power finally outweighed his undisputed talents and phenomenal energy."

"France faces a series of difficult problems domestically and externally and will be a better place to deal with them under a leader who prefers conciliation to confrontation," it said.

VIENNA — Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, a Socialist, hailed Mitterrand's re-election as a "great day for European social democracy," the chancellor's office said in a statement.

He was particularly pleased that Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's signals to the right-wing camp had obviously had no success, the statement said.

He also welcomed the fact that parts of the bourgeoisie had apparently voted for Mitterrand. "This politically responsible attitude raises hopes that rightist populism and rightist extremism will receive a clear rejection in other European countries," he said.

Joerg Haider, leader of the small right-wing Freedom Party, said the result was without surprises because Mitterrand was the "better conservative."

ROME — Social Democrat leader Antonio Cirielli, whose party is among the five in Italy's ruling coalition, said in a statement: "It is a splendid victory for someone who has been able to reconcile the principles of reformist socialism with the national interests of the French Republic. We can learn something in Italy from Mitterrand's plan to bring together centrist and reformist socialists."

BONN — Hans-Jochen Vogel, leader of West Germany's opposition Social Democrats, said he had sent a congratulatory message to Mitterrand, saying: "Your victory is a great encouragement for social justice, German-French cooperation, for progress towards European unity and international solidarity."

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Hundreds in Bangladesh demand drinking water

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 500 men, women and children demonstrated in Dhaka Monday demanding adequate supplies of drinking water for the Bangladesh capital's four million people. "Give us water to quench unbearable thirst," they shouted outside government buildings. "Clean the water sources of germs and insects," they shouted. Thousands of Dhaka residents scramble around wayside water-taps and wells every morning to fill jars before the sun climbs high. Witnesses said the water queues form before dawn but not everyone is lucky enough to have a share of scarce supplies. Municipal authorities told reporters water was short throughout the year because the supply was only half the required 180 million gallons a day.

Report says U.S. likely to rejoin UNESCO

TOKYO (AP) — UNESCO Secretary-General Frederico Mayor said the United States was likely to rejoin the organisation "at an early date" following its withdrawal in 1984 over charges of alleged anti-Western bias and gross management, a newspaper reported Monday. In an interview with the Asahi Shimbun, a major Japanese newspaper, in Paris Sunday, Mayor said "consideration is clearly under way (in the United States) for its return, and it will be at an early date," the paper said. Quoting unidentified sources, the Asahi said the American review of its position was prompted by the Soviet Union's increased role in U.N.-related international organisations. Mayor has attended several privately organised meetings on international issues involving U.S. diplomacy since April, during which he "unofficially" met with U.S. State Department officials, the report said.

Gunmen kill Sri Lankan politician

COLOMBO (R) — Unidentified gunmen shot dead an opposition candidate for local council elections in Sri Lanka while he was addressing a meeting, the military said Monday. Two gunmen riding a motorcycle fired at A. Amaradasa of the United Socialist Alliance at Minuwangoda, 32 kilometres north of Colombo Sunday, a military spokesman said. The Alliance is contesting elections to the Western Province Council June 9. The provincial councils are a key element in an Indo-Sri Lanka Accord signed

last year to end a Tamil separatist rebellion here. Police said they suspected the outlawed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front) was responsible for the attack. The Front is opposed to the accord and has been blamed for a string of killings of politicians supporting the pact.

N. Korea bans most contacts with Japan

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea has banned all contact with Japan except for groups attending international meetings and sporting events in retaliation for sanctions against the communist nation imposed last January, North Korea's official news agency said Monday. "After this step on the part of the Japanese government, the travel of all delegations has virtually been suspended between our country and Japan," the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) quoted an unidentified Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying. Japan imposed sanctions on North Korea Jan. 26 after accusing that nation of downing a South Korean passenger jet last November. Japan said it would sharply restrict contact between Japanese and North Korean diplomats and prohibit North Korean officials from entering the country. The KCNA report, monitored in Tokyo, quoted the official as saying: "under the present conditions in which the Japanese authorities persist in their unwarrantable sanctions against us, we will not send any delegation to Japan, save delegations to international conferences and international games not directly connected (to Japan)."

Recorders of crashed plane recovered

OSLO (AP) — Two flight recorders have been recovered undamaged from the wreckage of a plane that crashed in northern Norway, killing all 36 people aboard, according to a report Sunday. The Widerøe airline four-engine Turboprop slammed into the side of 270-metre Torgatten Mountain Friday, killing the 33 passengers and three crew members instantly. All were Norwegian. "It is still much too early to say anything about the reason for the plane crash," Lieutenant-general Wilhelm Mohr, the investigation chief, was quoted by the National news agency NTB. "It seems apparent, however, that the plane was flying too low and was somewhat off course," he added. The accident was the third worst in Norway since World War II and occurred five minutes before the plane should have landed at Brønnøysund Airport, about 120 kilometres south of the Arctic Circle, after a flight from the nearby town Namsos.

Kabul dismisses Islamabad's charges over refugees' return

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Soviet-backed Afghan government Sunday rejected a groundless Pakistani charges that it had made no preparations for the return of three million refugees in Pakistan.

"These groundless allegations, which are being made in order to mislead public opinion, are far from the truth and are counted as another design for creating obstacles in the way of the return of the refugees," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

The statement, broadcast by the official Kabul radio, said Kabul had taken specific and practical measures for the return of the refugees.

U.N.-mediated accords signed in Geneva last month provide for the withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan and the return home of Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

A Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters Wednesday: "We see no effort

whatsoever being made (about the refugees) by the other side." The troop withdrawal is due to begin on May 15.

The Afghan statement said: "For more than one year now, necessary measures towards providing all-round legal guarantees and facilities concerning the return of the refugees to the country have been put into practice."

"The measures which have been taken in this regard cover three aspects, political, social and economic. Our compatriots inside and outside the country have been informed of these measures through a variety of means."

It said the return of more than 100,000 of the refugees and their rehabilitation "is evidence of this fact."

A statement by Kabul's official Bakhtar news agency Thursday said Afghanistan had set up 300 reception centres in border areas able to receive 10,000 refugees a day.

Envoy denies briefing Bush

In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, U.S. Ambassador Everett Ellis Briggs Sunday denied reports that he had briefed Vice-President George Bush in 1985 on allegations about drug trafficking by Noriega.

"I could not have briefed the vice president on Noriega's drug running, drug smuggling or money laundering activities because we simply did not have evidence of those activities at that time and so any statement to the effect that I did brief him on such matters at that time simply is not true," Briggs told a news conference in Tegucigalpa.

The New York Times, in a report in Sunday's editions, said Briggs told Bush during a Dec. 16, 1985, meeting about cables sent to the State Department recounting allegations of Noriega's involvement with drugs.

Briggs was ambassador to Panama at that time. He is now ambassador to Honduras.

Public address system severed before Queen Elizabeth's arrival

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Public address system cables outside Australia's new parliament house were severed Monday shortly before Queen Elizabeth II arrived for the official opening, a police spokesman said. The spokesman, who was not identified, said police had been called in by security guards after the Australian Broadcasting Corporation complained that some of their cables had failed, cutting off the public address system outside the building. Police found where the cables had been cut, but had no chance of tracking down those responsible because of the size of the crowd, the spokesman said. The 20,000 people standing outside the building were left with no commentary for about 10 minutes until technicians replaced the cut cables.

Wrangle over honorary degree for Nelson Mandela

BOSTON (AP) — A three-year campaign that has succeeded in getting Northeastern University to award an honorary degree to jailed South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela has raised objections from some faculty and students. Northeastern announced plans to award the degree honouring Mandela May 13, ending a long effort by students seeking to change a university policy barring honorary degrees for anyone who could not be present at the ceremony. The degree is to be accepted by South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who is scheduled to be in Boston for a benefit dinner. Law students last September began a campaign of demonstrations and vigils on the campus. They hung a banner from the second floor of the law library that said: "Honour Nelson Mandela."

Hunters kill 21 pandas

HONG KONG (AP) — Hunters killed 21 rare giant pandas in Pingwu County of China's central Sichuan province during the past five years, an official Chinese report said. China's domestic China News Service, in a report appearing Monday in Hong Kong newspapers, also said courts punished 53 people for the illegal activity. The report noted that local courts in Sichuan recently sentenced 27 people for hunting giant pandas and selling their skin. Three of the criminals received life sentences and were deprived of their political rights, it said. Pingwu is one of the few areas in southwest China where the giant panda, an endangered species and a national symbol, is found in the wild. China's panda population, just under 1,000 has been declining for the last five years because a rare flowering cycle of the arrow bamboo, the animals' main food, has caused many of the plants to die.

Whitney Houston ill in London

LONDON (AP) — Soul singer Whitney Houston cancelled one of her nine sell-out British concerts Sunday night after she was taken ill. The 24-year-old singer was unable to go back on stage for an encore before a 10,000-crowd at Wembley Arena Saturday night and had to be taken to her hotel by ambulance. Her agent, Versa Manos, said later that food poisoning was probably responsible for her collapse. She said Houston should be well enough for her scheduled performance at the Arena Monday. Holders of Sunday concert tickets were told they can use them for an extra performance the singer is giving Tuesday. Houston's string of hit discs broke the Beatles' record of six consecutive chart-topping singles in the United States.

Malaysia fines 2 fast-breakers

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Two Muslims paid fines of 200 ringgits (\$80) each after a court convicted them of breaking their fast during the holy month of Ramadan, it was reported Monday. Hassan Kundor, 45, pleaded guilty to eating fried noodles and Safian Yusoff, 27, admitted drinking iced tea, the New Straits Times newspaper reported. The two were arrested Sunday in a raid on a coffee shop in Kota Bharu, 350 kilometres northeast of here, it said. They were tried in a special court that oversees the observance of Islamic law.